

# THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 3670.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

PRICE  
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REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

**BRITISH MUSEUM.**—The READING ROOMS will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, MARCH 1, to FRIDAY, MARCH 4, inclusive.  
R. MAUNDE THOMPSON, Principal Librarian and Secretary.  
British Museum, February 22, 1898.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN,** ALBEMARLE STREET, PICCADILLY, W.  
THURSDAY NEXT, March 3, at 3 o'clock, Professor J. A. FLEMING M.A. D.Sc. F.R.S., Professor of Electrical Engineering in University College, London, FIRST of FIVE LECTURES on 'RECENT RESEARCHES IN MAGNETISM AND DIAMAGNETISM.' Subscription to this course, One Guinea.  
SATURDAY, March 5, at 3 o'clock, Professor WALTER RALEIGH, M.A., Professor of Modern Literature in University College, Liverpool, FIRST of THREE LECTURES on 'ENGLISH LETTER-WRITERS.' Half-Guinea.  
Subscription to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas.

**BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—THE SEVENTH MEETING of the SESSION will be held on WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 2, at 32, SACKVILLE STREET, PICCADILLY. Chair to be taken at 8 P.M. Antiquities will be exhibited, and the following Paper read:—  
'The French Stonehenge,' by T. COTTE WORSFOLD, Esq. F.R.H.S. F.R.S.L. with illustrations by aid of the H.-mated oxy-hydrogen lantern by ARTHUR E. BROWN, Esq. B.Sc. (Lond.).  
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

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## LITERATURE

*The Niger Sources and the Borders of the New Sierra Leone Protectorate.* By Lieut.-Col. J. K. Trotter, R.A. (Methuen & Co.)

COL. TROTTER'S narrative of the labours of the Anglo-French Delimitation Commission of 1895-6 will be read with attention by all interested in the West African question. His description of Freetown proves that he rightly appreciates the advantages and drawbacks of the capital of Sierra Leone. His opinion of the climate is free from bias, and more favourable than that of most writers, and he points out that its evil reputation may be lessened by proper sanitary arrangements and an improved water supply; the latter, we are glad to learn, is about to be undertaken at a cost of 20,000*l.* Sierra Leone is important as a coaling station; but the harbour, though good, is not the best on the West African coast, for the estuary of the Gaboon is much superior. Had this been known to British officials, the exchange proposed in 1875 for the malarious and useless Gambia would probably have been carried out, and would have been greatly to the advantage of this country. Still the author is correct in asserting that

"a little enterprise on the part of the Sierra Leone people should make their harbour the port of call for vessels bound to South Africa and to the Pacific, as well as for those homeward bound from those parts."

We have possessed Sierra Leone since 1787, yet, notwithstanding its advantageous position, no attempt has been made to construct a dry dock for the use of the numerous men-of-war and merchant ships which frequent it. Contrast this with the energy of the Germans in the Cameroon, which they only occupied in 1884, and where repairs to ships, and even to boilers, can now be satisfactorily executed.

The Joint Commission left Freetown on December 16th, 1895, and proceeded to Port Lokko, in the Timmeni country, the starting-point for the interior. It passed through territory hitherto unexplored; indeed, the chief and people of Kundembaia, a well-built town situated at the crossing of four routes, had never

before seen white men, and fled into the bush until assured of the peaceful intentions of the Europeans. Swamps were frequent, and unlike anything Col. Trotter had seen elsewhere—"heavy stagnant mud, produced, no doubt, by the immense quantities of decaying vegetation"; they were "from three to four feet deep, and often as offensive as if it was the sewage of a city." However, the land gradually rises as the distance from the coast increases, and when, on January 13th, 1896, the boundary line between English and French territory was reached, the height above sea level was 3,300 ft. Shortly afterwards the guides deserted, owing to their fear of the great and mysterious river. The author writes:

"The natives of this country have the greatest dread of the Niger source. They regard it as the seat of the devil, who is the only supreme being they worship, and they believe that to look upon it is to meet certain death within the year. Our visit to the place was regarded as very likely to provoke the evil one into an undesirable form of activity in the neighbourhood, and, in order to prevent this, the inhabitants of the nearest village sacrificed, some few days later, a white fowl, and sprinkled its blood on the trees near the upper slope of the Tembi valley."

The actual source of the Niger is thus described:—

"Cutting our way through the undergrowth, we crept and clambered down the slippery slopes till we reached the bottom, and came to a moss-covered rock from which a tiny spring issues, and has made a pool below. The foliage at this spot is green, most luxuriant and beautiful, and, as one looks on the birthplace of the Niger, it is easy to imagine oneself at a dripping well in some wood in England.....The natives, amongst other superstitions, have a great dread of drinking the water of the Niger. Not having any superstitions, we drank it freely, when we visited the source, and not long afterwards were fain to admit that the natives were wiser than we. Indeed, judging from its effects, there is some ground for believing that the river is indeed haunted."

The camp near the ruined village of Tembi Kunda, close to the source of the great river, was found to be 2,800 feet above sea level, and was fixed astronomically in north latitude 9° 5' 20", and west longitude 10° 46' 40". The country was decidedly mountainous, the summits in the neighbourhood being estimated at a little over 5,000 ft.:—

"At Kokonante there is a small village, but otherwise there is no sign of human life. In this solitude, however, nature is carrying out a great work. Three tiny streams, all destined to become mighty rivers, commence their journey within sight of each other."

The climate in December, January, and February Col. Trotter found by no means insupportable. The difference between the air of the interior and that of the coast was decidedly marked; the nights were cold, and in the early morning temperature was frequently as low as 58° Fahr. The Europeans suffered from fever at intervals, but

"whether the malaria was absorbed during the passage through the swampy coast region or in the higher country"

the author does not pretend to say.

"Of swamp as understood on the coast, i.e., three or four feet of poisonous-smelling mud, there is not much in the high country; but there is marshy ground in abundance."

Leaving Tembi Kunda on January 19th, the Commission proceeded to survey the frontier, following the watershed in a northerly direction. The work was frequently delayed by swarms of locusts, which covered everything when they settled, and when in flight formed a dull red cloud, through which nothing could be seen. Food was scarce, and the task of delimiting the boundary was arduous, owing to the nature of the country, which was chiefly red granite hills. Progress was extremely slow, from two and a half to four miles only being covered daily, and an officer of the Frontier Police was attacked by heat apoplexy and died within half an hour. The work being completed, the *procès-verbaux* were drawn up and signed on April 30th, 1896. The coast was regained on May 5th, when the English Commission reached Freetown after an absence of rather more than four and a half months.

Col. Trotter says that the invasion of the country by the Sofas corresponds "to the Mahdi's crusade in the Eastern Soudan; Samory has swept the country from end to end, sparing neither age nor sex, cattle nor dwelling." Our author more than once refers to the superiority of Mohammedan over pagan natives, and states that missionary enterprise has done little in the regions traversed, and that little has been accomplished not by the Church Missionary Society, but by American missionaries, who are training the natives as carpenters, masons, gardeners, &c. Traders were conspicuous by their absence, although plants bearing india-rubber abound; but the natives were ignorant of the mode of treating the gum. Rice, cassava, guinea-corn, tobacco, cotton, and kola nuts are largely cultivated, the last being chiefly exported to the French Soudan. Nearly all British trade with that district passes through Falaba, a large town 1,600 ft. above the sea, and the headquarters of a division of the Sierra Leone Frontier Police. Many beacons were erected along the Anglo-French frontier.

Out of seven European officers employed on the boundary Commission, three died and two were invalided within a year. But this disastrous result was due, Col. Trotter says, not only, and not even mainly, to the unhealthiness of the climate, but more particularly to the difficulties of obtaining the common necessities of life in the interior. The mortality amongst the engineers superintending the construction of the railway from Freetown to the interior was also alarming, for "there is something terribly dangerous about turning up the soil in West Africa. Any work which involves doing this seems to set free the malarial poison in its most deadly form," a perfectly true statement that applies to many places which are far healthier than Sierra Leone. The railway will be prolonged towards the Sulima country, which is rich in rubber and comparatively well peopled, and will repay exploitation if carried out in a proper manner. The Sulima district is elevated, and free from the long cane-grass which gave much trouble to the Commission. The advantages accruing from the delimitation of the frontier are well summed up in these pages, and the hope is expressed that

"before many years are over we may have every part of our African possessions and spheres, where they join those of other European powers, regularly demarcated and beaconed."

When this has been accomplished, and British territory effectively occupied, it may be hoped that an end will be put to such disputes as are at present causing serious uneasiness and friction. Col. Trotter fully appreciates the great fighting qualities of the natives on the French side of the border, than whom, he says, "no better troops could be found." It is with these men that we shall have to deal in the event of further trouble in Nigeria and the Lagos Hinterland; the Senegalese Rifles and Spahis are superior in physique to our Haussas, Yorubas, and West Indian troops, and are absolutely devoid of fear.

Col. Trotter estimates the area of the Sierra Leone Protectorate at something over 18,000 square miles, to such narrow limits have our possessions in that region been reduced by the apathy of the authorities. We have lost an immense tract of the rich and valuable Hinterland, to the serious detriment of the trade of Sierra Leone; yet this might have been avoided by an early appreciation of the situation and prompt action a few years ago. Prior to the time of Col. Cardew, the present energetic Governor, scarcely any steps were taken in the matter; to him is due the credit of exhibiting personal interest in the question and of exploring much of the little-known region under his rule; but much yet remains to be done in order fully to explore and develop the small area still left to us, parts of which are known to possess a fertile soil and abundance of water. Want of roads and facilities for transport forms a great drawback, which will be partially removed by the construction of the railway. Many of the swamps might be drained to a certain extent by removing the trunks of fallen trees and other obstructions which now dam the natural outlets. Horses and cattle do not thrive in Freetown, but it is not so in the interior, where the tsetse does not exist. The French make great use of mules in all their West African possessions, but those valuable animals have, so far, been completely neglected in British territory.

The development of the interior and the health question are fully discussed in chap. viii., and we entirely agree with the author that "the devil is not so black as he is painted, and the climate of Sierra Leone is not responsible for all the fatalities which have been attributed to it." In fact, his remarks on both subjects are well considered and just.

The concluding chapter on the geography and topography of the Sierra Leone Protectorate deserves the attention of all interested in West Africa in general, and in Sierra Leone in particular. The value of this book must not be estimated by its size: it is replete with important information and practical suggestions; it is written in a clear, concise, and at the same time pleasant if not too grammatical style; the few illustrations, from photographs, are good, and the really excellent map has evidently been compiled with extreme care; while the orthography of native names is exceptionally good, and far superior to that generally encountered in books of

African travel. The printing is decidedly creditable to the publishers.

#### TWO HISTORICAL ROMANCES.

*Simon Dale.* By Anthony Hope. (Methuen & Co.)

*Shrewsbury.* By Stanley J. Weyman. (Longmans & Co.)

EXCEPT he be a fool, whose prudence is notoriously limited, a novelist must require a good deal of skill and courage to embark on an historical novel. For while complete success means that he may have produced some of the most entrancing fiction there is to be read, as Dumas did and Sir Walter Scott, a bad historical novel is associated with the dreariest experiences of the novel-reader. Failure, indeed, is much easier than success, for the disadvantages of introducing historical personages are obvious, while it requires exceptional delicacy to seize the right amount of reality which may be allowed in a novel. One of the charms of historical novels is the greater footing of intimacy on which they can put the reader with historical personages, and the enhanced sense which they give him of their reality. Claverhouse and Fouquet, Louis XI. and Louis XIV. as real characters are more interesting and living, even to the historical student, from the pages of Scott and Dumas, and by a kind of reactionary force they get an added interest in the novels from the fact that they undoubtedly existed. But this balance must be retained; the novelist must not forget that while his ideal presentment may add to the reality of real persons, the success of his ideal presentment depends in a large measure on the vividness of his real persons in history. It is quite possible, indeed, that a good novel may be written about obscure historical characters unearthed from old chronicles or brought out of the lumber-room of history, but their interest is something quite apart from the historical side. Novels about the early Christians, for example—even Dumas wrote one, and it was a failure—possess small interest as such, because we know so little about them historically that all the information vouchsafed reads like mere pedantry. In such cases the history is a burden and a defect in the novel; and the people who unearth obscure Polish kings for their novels fall into the same pit. It is an essential in a good historical novel that the real persons introduced should be already so familiar that any new detail about them may appear of importance.

A second essential in an historical novel is that the real characters introduced should be kept to a strictly subordinate position. The reason of this is obvious: that as their actions are known to history, if they perform one of their real actions in a novel, there is no surprise or interest possible in the *dénouement* of an event which is known, whereas the possibility of their performing imaginary actions is limited by the knowledge of what they actually did. Dumas alone was strong enough to allow his characters to perform their real actions in his books, but he always got over the difficulties by devising some stupendously ingenious explanation of his own for them, as in the celebrated incident which explained how Monk became reconciled to Charles II.

But unless one be a Dumas, it is better to let the real characters saunter on and off the stage in the way Thackeray did with such masterly effect in 'Esmond,' imparting a sort of substantiality to the fictitious characters, or to make historical events not the central incidents, but important only for their influence on the lives of the imaginary heroes, as Scott did.

The difficulties which the historical novelist creates for himself are thus obvious. As his historical characters must be fairly familiar his range of invention is limited, for if he makes them unlike their reputation he ensures disappointment. For example, a novelist who made Louis XIV. seem undignified or Charles II. a bigot might as well stick to his middle-class love story. Again, if the big men of history have to play a more or less subordinate part, great imagination is required to raise the hero to a fitting pitch of sublimity. Then, on the other hand, the triumph of the successful historical novel is unlimited. The sense of proximity to the Richelieus, the Louis XIV.s, the Claverhouses, or the Marlboroughs of history, adds an intense thrill to the emotions. The conviction that a common musketeer outwitted Mazarin, or that Charles I.'s last words were whispered on the scaffold to a French adventurer, or that Mr. Addison is speaking in real life and not in the *Spectator*, as he does to the common herd, is among the most overmastering sensations in literature. The added sense of reality which is given to a well-known event by the immixture of the hero of a romance in it is also no mean part of the joy in a good historical novel.

Anthony Hope has very nearly obtained a complete triumph in his 'Simon Dale.' He has chosen an excellent period for the action—the time of Charles II., known to us by Mr. Pepys and Comte de Grammont, an audacity in itself deserving of success; and the audacity is all the greater and all the more successful inasmuch as he obviously imitates Dumas's method in his narrative, and actually brings in Louis XIV. himself, as Dumas did in 'Le Vicomte de Bragelonne.' Charles II. is excellent; he is witty, good-humoured, and, at the same time, a king, even when he allows himself to be mocked by Rochester or Buckingham; Rochester and Buckingham, the Duke of Monmouth and the Duke of York, all live in our writer's pages, and the more vividly for his narrative. Louis XIV. himself is all that one is led to expect that the "roi soleil" should be, save in one instance—his leap into the boat. We are convinced that Louis would never have so far forgotten his kingship as to do that, especially as his passion for Barbara Quinton was evidently a mere whim. Yet even for this lapse the author wins immediate forgiveness by the splendid use he makes of it and the dignity with which Louis carries off his amazingly impossible situation. As for the hero, he is a perfect hero of romance—he is brave, witty, adventurous, and a good lover, and he succeeds in the difficult task of narrating his own prowess without a suspicion of priggishness. This is an achievement which Dumas himself would hardly have been equal to, especially when the hero has to suggest that a lady



whom he had ceased to love was all the time half in love with him. But this form of narrative is Anthony Hope's strongest point, and one is apt to forget its difficulty in the ease with which he carries it off. Perhaps the least convincing part of the narrative is the hero's calf love for Nell Gwyn. It does not ring quite true, but it serves as an excuse for a great deal of Nell, who is the most charming coquette imaginable. For the rest, the story is rapid and most excellently told. The ingenuity of the beginning and the way in which the keynote of the story is struck almost in the first line are especially remarkable, and hardly for an instant does the story flag, as Simon Dale is fighting duels or talking to kings and princes on almost every page. "Hardly for an instant" we said advisedly, because here, as we noticed in 'Phroso,' Anthony Hope apparently does not quite see where he ought to stop. The part after Barbara has been brought home seems, if the comparison may be pardoned, almost like flogging a tired horse—not that it had shown any signs of fatigue before. But the final incident with Carford and Fontelles is too detached from the rest to fit in well, and the book would certainly have come to an end with more sparkle if the lovers could have been finally united at the end of chap. xx. In fact, the author seems, to some extent, to feel the awkwardness himself, and his only lapse (which is decidedly clumsy) from the first person is in this part. There are good things in the last six chapters, but they are rather like a second slightly inferior course.

Mr. Weyman is perhaps unfortunate in the fact that his book appears so closely in time to Anthony Hope's brilliant novel. 'Shrewsbury' is anything but brilliant—it is somewhat pedantically written, with one of those tiresome attempts to reproduce the style of the period, and the central figure, who is also, as in 'Simon Dale,' the narrator, is so contemptible a cur that he becomes positively dreary. Of course it is possible to be interested in a cad and a coward in fiction, but when there would have been just as much point in making the man tolerable the persistence of his meanness hurts the story. The second hero of the book, the Duke of Shrewsbury, is hardly a well-chosen subject for an historical novel: he is, except to historical students, a mere name in history; why he resigned office is to the novel-reader a matter of profound indifference, and the only really dramatic action known of his, his invasion of the Council Chamber just before Anne's death, is not reached in this book. William III. comes in, and he is not disappointing; but it is not at all clear that the narrator was likely to have come into his presence as he did on the first occasion, and the whole incident reads as if it were invented to drag in the Great Deliverer. There is, however, one really dramatic scene: the accusation of the Duke by Sir John Fenwick and Smith, and their confutation by the appearance of the Duke's double. But this lively scene does not save the whole book from dullness.

*Alien Immigrants in England.* By W. Cunningham, D.D. "Social England Series." (Sonnenschein & Co.)

THIS book is not, as the title might suggest, a discussion of the questions involved in the recent migrations of the Polish Jew, but a careful and elaborate piece of historical investigation which follows the fortunes of the immigrant alien from the Norman Conquest up to recent times. The influence of the Normans, the Flemings of the twelfth century, the religious refugees of the sixteenth century, the Huguenots and the Poor Palatines of a later period, are all in turn adequately dealt with. We are brought into a polemical atmosphere in the last short chapter only, and there Dr. Cunningham is careful to point out that the history of past immigrations throws absolutely no light on the problems involved in the presence of the modern pauper stranger in our midst. A pleasing feature in the book is the share taken in it by some of Dr. Cunningham's lady pupils at Cambridge, who have helped him to collect his facts and written at least one of his chapters. In short, it is a solid and useful piece of work, having the special merit of covering ground which has never been covered as a whole before, so that though the scale is small, the result may well be distinguished as different in kind from the mass of little manuals which say once more what has already been said quite as well, if not better.

Dr. Cunningham shows his readers clearly his method and its limitations. He cites authorities more often than is usual in books of this kind, and if many of the authors quoted are by no means first-hand sources, he warns his readers in his preface that he has not always sought to go behind local tradition and established authority. While his plea is adequate for the use of collections of facts such as those in Chalmers's 'Caledonia' and the local histories, we cannot remain altogether satisfied with statements about the Norman period vouched for by such late writers as Knighton, or with a reference to Richard of Cirencester, a careless fourteenth-century compiler, for the influence of alien immigrants in the time of Edgar.

It is natural, despite his long experience in working at economic history, that Dr. Cunningham should make a certain number of mistakes when attempting to cover so large a field, especially in dealing with matters of general history. We might have set down the "Welsh marshes" of p. 27 to carelessness in correcting proofs were we not confronted on p. 26, and again in the useful map of alien settlements, with the idea that the Flemings settled at Ross, in Herefordshire, though, of course, the real Flemings were planted in the district of Rhos, in the modern Pembrokeshire. On the same map we also note that Chapelized is put some distance south of Kilkenny. But is it not the suburb of Dublin adjoining the Phoenix Park? It is a pity that the unprovable connexion between the municipal organization of some southern French towns and the Roman *collegia* at the same places is again suggested as likely on p. 49; and Dr. Cunningham's historical imagination has rather run away with him when he finds it "difficult to believe" that

the Domesday Book and the census of Augustus were "wholly independent" (p. 53). "Saintonge" on p. 57 should surely be Saintes; and why should the Ostmen of Newcastle, who accurately spell their own name on the seal figured on p. 65, receive in the text a superfluous aspirate? Has not a "not" slipped out of the description on p. 230 of Birmingham as a corporate town, and therefore exempt from the Five Mile Act? But such things as these point to haste rather than any more serious defects. One might more reasonably complain that the style, though clear enough, is not always interesting or forcible, and that the doings of the aliens are not always sufficiently disentangled from general history. Thus much premised, however, the work is a sound and useful addition to our literature of manuals. The maps and prints are useful and clear, and the index good. The present volume will raise the series to which it belongs to a higher level than the two publications which have already appeared in it. May we conclude by hoping that in future issues of the series the editor will omit, or chasten the style of, his somewhat unconvincing and pompous general preface?

*Rampolli.* By George Mac Donald. (Longmans & Co.)

IT is well named, this, the latest bough of a tree that has borne in its time goodly fruit, and it is welcome, as anything is welcome that comes from the same stock as 'Phantastes' and 'David Elginbrod.' Yet it is impossible to avoid wishing that the author had kept his own work apart from his translations of the work of others. Translation of verse is poor work at best. If ever we find a translation whose form is beautiful, we learn that the translation is all wrong, as in FitzGerald's 'Omar' and 'The Bard of the Dimbovitza.' If the translation be exact, the form will be cramped and unpleasing, as in these verses from Schiller, Goethe, Heine, and the rest. It is only fair to add that Dr. Mac Donald recognizes to the full the difficulties of the task he has undertaken. Witness these words from the preface:—

"After all, translation is but a continuous effort after the impossible. There is in it a general difficulty whose root has a thousand ramifications, the whole affair being but an accommodation of difficulties, and a perfect translation from one language into another a thing that cannot be effected."

And so the translations are failures, and we turn the pages sadly, wandering on past Novalis and Uhland, Petrarch and Luther, seeking poetry and finding none; then, at the hundred and eightieth page or thereabouts, we come suddenly on what we seek, and find it full measure, pressed down, and running over. 'The Diary of an Old Soul' is, take it altogether, one of the most beautiful poems that have been printed this many a long day. It has faults, of course, but its merits triumphantly efface these, to any reader with eyes to see the beauty of the poem, a heart to feel its tenderness and truth. Deeply religious, dogmatic even, as is the sentiment, it can excite nothing but sympathy in believers of any sect; and even one to whom the old creeds have grown

empty must feel in his heart a stirring of the old faith after reading this poem.

The first verse, though not by any means one of the finest, strikes the note which dominates the whole:—

Lord, what I once had done with youthful might,  
Had I been from the first true to the truth,  
Grant me, now old, to do—with better sight,  
And humbler heart, if not the brain of youth;

Lead back thy old soul, by the path of pain,  
Round to his best—young eyes and heart and brain.

Yestereve Death came, and knocked at my thin door.

I from my window looked: the thing I saw,  
The shape uncouth, I had not seen before.  
I was disturbed—with fear, in sooth, not awe;  
Whereof ashamed, I instantly did rouse  
My will to seek thee—only to fear the more:  
Alas! I could not find thee in the house.

I was like Peter when he began to sink.  
To thee a new prayer therefore have I got—  
That, when Death comes in earnest to my door,  
Thou wouldst thyself go, when the latch doth clink,

And lead him to my room, up to my cot;  
Then hold thy child's hand, hold and leave him not,  
Till Death has done with him for evermore.

The charm of this poem lies mainly in the fine and delicate fervour of its thought, set in language not invariably of the highest poetic excellence, but always simple and dignified.

The following verses speak for themselves:—

My prayer-bird was cold—would not away,  
Although I set it on the edge of the nest.  
Then I bethought me of the story old—  
Love-fact, or loving fable, thou knowest best—  
How, when the children had made sparrows of clay,  
Thou mad'st them birds, with wings to flutter and fold:

Take, Lord, my prayer in thy hand and make it pray.

My poor clay-sparrow seems turned to a stone  
And from my heart will neither fly nor run.  
I cannot feel as thou and I both would,  
But, Father, I am willing—make me good.  
What art thou Father for, but to help thy son?  
Look deep, yet deeper, in my heart, and there  
Beyond what I can feel read thou the prayer.

Here is a poem which may be read again and again, remaining always an influence soothing in the anxiety of life, inspiring in life's depression. The outrage of the translations which come before it must, after all, be forgiven, since it is but the author's gentle humility which has placed his own fine work behind the screen of that work of others which he has sought to render into English.

*Old Tracks and New Landmarks.* By Mrs. Walker. (Bentley & Son.)

Mrs. WALKER, who has already published several books recording her experiences in the south-eastern districts of Europe, has put together in this work a series of sketches of travel in the north-western part of Asia Minor, in Macedonia, and in Crete, together with an account of the steamer route on the Danube, journeys by train between England and Constantinople, and excursions on the Bosphorus. In these somewhat miscellaneous records, while making no pretence at complete or systematic description, she includes several lively and pleasant descriptions of life and manners at intervals between 1857 and the present day, when the opening of the German railway to Angora

tempted her and two other adventurous ladies to "the last excursion, so recently undertaken with (dare I say it?) scarcely diminished pleasure and enthusiasm," an excursion to the "ancient cities of Asia Minor—Nicomedia and Ancyra—as the aim and object of an old woman's exertions." The book is pervaded by a kindly, happy spirit, which more than atones for some looseness of style and a habit of composing sentences without a verb. Mrs. Walker's pictures are all drawn from life; every one will suggest to the traveller some interesting memory of a similar scene or incident; and the book is of the sort to excite in every reader the desire to travel in the same countries, even on the railway to Angora, which has some solid claims to the distinction of being the worst railway in existence. But the German railway, though quite unable to cope with the traffic of the busy seasons, and quite innocent of any attempt to cope with it—being blessed with a guaranteed return per kilomètre, which the Germans, for the first time in history, have actually succeeded in getting paid by the Porte—is not so uncomfortable for passengers as it might be, and Mrs. Walker's never-failing charity and good humour find something kind to say for it.

The best way of conveying to the reader an idea of the very varied contents of the book is to pick out a few specimen pieces. Delightfully true to life is the sketch of the Greek "little servant-of-all-work, Thespinoula," who,

"in general, flaps about the house in slippers and stockingless feet; she wears her uncombed hair hanging in a tail down her back from under a dirty rag that once was white, while her garments display an absence of superfluity at times almost distressing; yet on fête days she expands like a gaily-decked umbrella, and her head is adorned with one of the prettiest of coiffures, the light handkerchief, with its border of 'biblibi,' forming a coronal of bright-coloured silk flowers."

Apart from the "biblibi" (as to which we do not venture to profess any knowledge), this description recalls many a maid-servant in the Greek coast towns; and the very name Thespinoula is characteristic. We think of another Thésépina (*th* pronounced as in *thine*), servant in a distant Greek inn, and an unusually favourable specimen of her class, being a Cerigote; Bithynian Thespinoula might pass for Smyranean Thésépina. What a degradation for the ancient name—Despoina, the Lady, the great Arcadian goddess, come down to be maid-of-all-work in a slatternly, yet not unpicturesque *locanda*! When the old washerwoman, Grammatike, summons Thésépina to take the clothes of the Frank guest in the inn, you have in miniature the whole transition from the Greece of Plato and Alexander to the Greece of the Turkish War in 1897. Yet this workgirl, whose only idea of beauty lies in cheap imitation of Parisian fashions, has in her the material to construct anew the old Despoina when circumstances shall become really favourable to her.

Very characteristic, too, of the Greek (who never acknowledges that he is in the wrong) is Mrs. Walker's account of Nicodemos, who, to his mistress's complaint that he had broken a precious and irre-

placeable vase, replied with calm dignity, "Madame, do not distress yourself; the harm is not so great, for I have only broken one half of it; the other half is all right."

The author's anecdotes of Turkish manners are equally illuminating. She understands the Turkish as spoken by the peasantry, and explains that

"curious use of the letter *m* in place of the first letter or letters of the word, to indicate 'the like.' Thus, a person may speak of a pen, 'calem,' and say 'calem malem,' meaning a pen and such like things; 'carotta marotta' (carrots and such).

This highly expressive and useful conversational idiom is exceedingly common, and can be used to serve a great variety of purposes.

Mrs. Walker is least likable when she is archaeological. Fortunately, she is not often so; but when she drops into antiquities she is unsatisfactory from every point of view, as when she tells of "an overturned pedestal with the inscription 'Avrilios ernothoro Valerios Ercolius.'" She describes the 'Monumentum Ancyranum' without alluding to the fact that the copy made by M. Perrot in 1861 has been antiquated since the expedition of Humann and Domaszewski, when the Latin text was moulded, so that a facsimile might be carried to Berlin, and the Greek was for the first time satisfactorily copied (a large part of it having been previously hidden). The author's silence is not due to any prejudice against the Germans, as is obvious from the highly favourable account she supplies of their behaviour during the occupation of France in 1870-71. Probably the reason is that her authority was the consul in Angora; and we may doubt whether he had access to Humann's large work, whereas a copy of Perrot's even larger 'Voyage Archéologique' was presented by the author to the Catholic School in Angora, and has proved serviceable to many visitors, thanks to the hospitality of the fathers.

The book, with its varied contents, will prove most interesting to the author's own friends; but so pleasant is its tone that no one can read it without beginning to feel himself on somewhat the same footing with Mrs. Walker.

*Book-Prices Current.* Vol. XI. Edited by J. H. Slater. (Stock.)

MR. SLATER's energy in connexion with books and their market value shows no falling off, and this new volume is in some respects better than those which immediately preceded it, and decidedly a great improvement on the earlier issues. The editing of an annual volume of this kind is not so simple a matter as may appear on the surface; it needs a really large amount of care, an unlimited supply of energy and perseverance, and a considerable knowledge of books. On the whole, Mr. Slater does his work commendably well, and the undoubted success of 'Book-Prices Current' proves that his labours have been very generally appreciated by the trade and by book-collectors. It may be said, indeed, that no bibliophile's library is properly furnished without a set of this publication, for, in a general way, book-sale catalogues have grown to such ample proportions that to bind them all would require space and cash



which few collectors would care to afford. This one volume serves as a substitute for over sixty catalogues, and in these days of many books and little space that is something to be thankful for.

The new instalment, nevertheless, has many imperfections or blemishes which, however minor in themselves, ought not to occur in a book of this kind. In the first place the number of omissions is much too great. Mr. Slater professes to include all books which sold for 1*l.* and upwards, but this rule is by no means adhered to. For instance, to take only one day—the third—of the sale of the first part of the Ashburnham Library, lots 421, 426, 442, 468, 479, 487, and 516 are entirely omitted; they are all Bibles, and, as this sale will always be of the first order of importance for reference purposes, they ought to have been included, particularly as they all come within the editor's limit. Lot 516 is quoted as having been disposed of for 93*l.*, but the lot which realized that amount was 517. At the Baring sale at Puttick's, November 3rd to 5th, lot 70, in a binding attributed to Clovis Eve, was sold for 2*l.* 14*s.*, but this is omitted. In the last sale recorded by Mr. Slater (Sotheby's, November 22nd to 25th) an inexcusably large number of rare and interesting books are ignored; for instance, lot 1141, the rare Greek Psalter from the Aldine press, circa 1495, which brought 8*l.*; the equally rare Lascaris, printed at Milan in 1480, which fetched 6*l.* 15*s.*, and many other lots, are entirely passed over.

Another delinquency may be pointed out. Mr. Slater makes a very proper acknowledgment of the ability with which Messrs. Sotheby's Catalogue of the Ashburnham sale was drawn up, and every one has admitted that the compiler, Mr. John Lawler, did his task well. What Mr. Slater modestly describes as "occasional additions and references of my own" bear, in many instances, so striking a similarity to the notes of the cataloguer that we are forced to the conclusion that Mr. Lawler must have helped himself pretty freely with Mr. Slater's knowledge, only it is rather awkward that Mr. Lawler's notes appeared before Mr. Slater's. The annotations to Mr. Slater's numbers 4219, 4223, 4226, 4228, 4233, 4268, 4293, to select only a few in the letter A in the Ashburnham sale, are signed "Ed.," but every one is to be found in the Catalogue.

Moreover, several books described as perfect in Messrs. Sotheby's Catalogue of the Ashburnham Library, which were afterwards discovered to be imperfect, and were distinctly sold as such, are described as perfect in 'Book-Prices Current.' If these were unimportant books, the oversight would not so much matter; but Mr. Slater's No. 4608, the Boccaccio of Colard Mansion, had five of the six preliminary, and two other leaves in facsimile; whilst his 4783, Caxton's 'Description of Britain,' bound up with the 'Chronicles of England,' had three leaves in facsimile.

Doubtless these instances of Mr. Slater's shortcomings might be multiplied, if one may judge of the unknown from the known; but we think we have quoted a sufficient number of examples to prove to him that he ought in future to exercise more diligence than he has done in seeing his annual

volume through the press. It is, perhaps, unreasonable to expect perfection in a compilation like 'Book-Prices Current,' but the errors which we have pointed out are the result of carelessness rather than incompetence. We should like also to protest against the absurd limitations upon which the annual issue of this useful publication is based. It is doubtless the publisher, and not the editor, who is responsible for the fact that no one volume embraces the sales of any one season or single year: it comprises the sales from December of one year to November of the next, an extremely irritating and confusing arrangement for which there is no sufficient excuse.

*Auld Lang Syne.* By the Right Hon. Prof. F. Max Müller. (Longmans & Co.)

THESE reminiscences, according to a most characteristic preface, were written to occupy a period of rest enforced by the doctor: a circumstance that fully accounts for their tenacity and discursiveness. We confess, however, to have been staggered by the announcement that "of myself there is but little, for the spectator or interpreter in a panorama should remain unseen and in the dark." Such self-suppression would be unnatural and unkind to expectant readers. Happily, a very few pages will convince them that the professor does not intend to make good the threat. A considerable magazine article might, indeed, be constructed on the allusions to his tastes—he never could enjoy Wagner except in one of his (Wagner's) lucid intervals—his habits (he is a confirmed smoker), and his views on things in general that are scattered up and down these pages. Again, it is quite like old times to find that mankind conveniently divides itself into various classes, as (1) royalty, (2) Prof. Max Müller's relatives by birth or marriage, (3) old friends of Prof. Max Müller, (4) beggars. Nor are these divisions mutually exclusive, since a member of the first was morganatically united to Prof. Max Müller's cousin, and the first class lunched and dined with him, or he with it, so often as to be practically identical with the third class. Happy professor and thrice happy royalty!

Of Mendelssohn and his godfather Weber the professor writes:—

"Mendelssohn's visit left a deep impression on my mind. I was still a mere child, he a very young man, and, as I thought, with the head of an angel. Mendelssohn's was always a handsome face, but later in life the sharpness of his features betrayed his Jewish blood. He excelled as an organ player, and while at Dessau he played on the organ in the *Grosse Kirche*, chiefly extempore. I was standing by him, when he took me on his knees and asked me to play a choral while he played the pedal. I see it all now as if it had been yesterday, and I felt convinced at that time that I too (*anch' io*) would be a musician. Was not Weber, Karl Maria von Weber, my godfather, and had he not given me my surname of Max? My father and mother had been staying with Weber at Dresden, and my father had undertaken to write the text for a new opera, which was never finished. Weber was then writing his 'Freischütz,' and my mother has often described to me how he would walk about the whole day in his room composing, not before the pianoforte, but with a small guitar, and how she heard every melody gradually

emerging from the twang of his little instrument."

Liszt, on the other hand, must be held blameworthy for having kept Prof. Max Müller up until nearly 3 A.M.—a Lyceum supper the occasion—though he was staying in a friend's house and had no latch-key. Heine, too, when introduced to the young man Max Müller, was too ill to take much notice of him:—

"One afternoon as I and my friend were sitting on the Boulevard, near the Rue Richelieu, sipping a cup of coffee, 'Look there,' he said, 'there comes Heine!' I jumped up to see, my friend stopped him, and told him who I was. It was a sad sight. He was bent down, and dragged himself slowly along, his spare greyish hair was hanging round his emaciated face, there was no light in his eyes. He lifted one of his paralyzed eyelids with his hand and looked at me. For a time, like the blue sky breaking from behind grey October clouds, there passed a friendly expression across his face, as if he thought of days long gone by."

Even more inconsiderate was the conduct of Prof. Max Müller's predecessor at Oxford, Dr. Trithem, half Russian, half Swiss. He wrote the most beautiful and touching letters, but was quite unapproachable. Here again, however, the explanation comes pat: he was in a lunatic asylum. Prof. Max Müller tells the real story about the destruction of Froude's 'Nemesis of Faith,' and it is interesting in its way:—

"I will not repeat the old story that his novel was publicly burnt in the quadrangle of Exeter College. The story is interesting as showing how quickly a myth can spring up even in our own lifetime, if only there is some likelihood in it, and something that pleases the popular taste. What really happened was, as I was informed at the time by Froude himself, no more than that one of the tutors (Dr. Sewell) spoke about the book at the end of one of his College Lectures. He warned the young men against the book, and asked whether anybody had read it. One of the undergraduates produced a copy which belonged to him. Dr. Sewell continued his sermonette, and warning with his subject, he finished by throwing the book, which did not belong to him, into the fire, at the same time stirring the coals to make them burn. Of what followed there are two versions. Dr. Sewell, when he had finished, asked his class, 'Now, what have I done?' 'You have burned my copy,' the owner of the book said in a sad voice, 'and I shall have to buy a new one.' The other version of the reply was, 'You have stirred the fire, sir.'"

Of Kingsley, the most important recollection relates to the effect of Newman's 'Apologia' upon the sale of his opponent's books:—

"Kingsley felt his defeat most deeply; he was like a man that stammered, and could not utter at the right time the right word that was in his mind. What is still more surprising was the sudden collapse of the sale of Kingsley's most popular books. I saw him after he had been with his publishers to make arrangements for the sale of his copyrights. He wanted the money to start his sons, and he had a right to expect a substantial sum. The sum offered him seemed almost an insult, and yet he assured me that he had seen the books of his publishers, and that the sale of his books during the last years did not justify a larger offer. He was miserable about it, as well he might be. He felt not only the pecuniary loss, but, as he imagined, the loss of that influence which he had gained by years of hard labour."

When the autobiographer had written against Darwin in the *Contemporary*, he sought an interview with the naturalist:—

"Mr. Darwin gave me an opportunity of discussing the facts and arguments which stood between him and me in a personal interview. Sir John Lubbock took me to see the old philosopher at his place, Down, Beckenham, Kent, and there are few episodes in my life which I value more. I need not describe the simplicity of his house, and the grandeur of the man who had lived and worked in it for so many years. Darwin gave me a hearty welcome, showed me his garden and his flowers, and then took me into his study, and standing leaning against his desk began to examine me. He said at once that personally he was quite ignorant of the science of language, and had taken his facts and opinions chiefly from his friend, Mr. Wedgwood. I had been warned that Darwin could not carry on a serious discussion for more than about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, as it always brought on his life-long complaint of sickness. I therefore put before him in the shortest way possible the difficulties which prevented me from accepting the theory of animals forming a language out of interjections and sounds of nature.....He listened most attentively without making any objections, but before he shook hands and left me he said in the kindest way, 'You are a dangerous man.' I ventured to reply, 'There can be no danger in our search for truth,' and he left the room."

We get some glimpses of Tennyson in these pages, of his annoyance at the Isle of Wight tourists, of his embarrassment when seated at the Deanery of Westminster next the late Queen of Holland. "I wish," he grumbled, "they had put some of your talking fellows next Regina."

There was an occasion, however, when royalty actually put Prof. Max Müller out of countenance. The Prince of Wales laughed to a neighbour while he was speaking at an Academy banquet, and broke the thread of the discourse. But only for a moment, or, to be correct, less than half a minute. The professor resumed; and we have Browning's authority for the statement that the pause gave life to the speech. This anecdote is trivial enough, but the chapters professedly devoted to royalty are unmistakably the best of the book, even though a prolix history of the Dukes of Anhalt-Dessau has a trifle too much of "auld lang syne" about it. Prof. Max Müller's observant eye marked the demeanour of Frederick William IV. of Prussia at dinner:—

"Humboldt and I drove to Potsdam, and I had a most delightful dinner and evening party. The King was extremely gracious, full of animated conversation, and evidently in the best of humours. While the Queen was speaking to me, he walked up to us, bowed to the Queen, and said to her, not to me, 'S'il vous plait, monsieur.' With this sally he took her arm and walked into the dining-room. We followed and sat down, and during the whole dinner the King carried on a conversation in a voice so loud that no one else ventured to speak. I watched the King, and saw how his face became more and more flushed, while he hardly touched a drop of wine during the whole of dinner."

We pass to an experience that would be ruined by a single comma of comment: the scene, All Souls'; the persons, Prof. Max Müller and the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Prince of Wales, and the present Kaiser:—

"I took a tumbler of the old ale myself and drank to the health of 'The three Emperors.' The Crown Prince did not see what I meant,

and asked again and again, 'But how so (Wie so)?' 'The future German Emperor,' I said, 'the future Emperor of India (the Prince of Wales), and, in the very distant future, the third Emperor of Germany.' The Crown Prince smiled, but an expression of seriousness or displeasure passed over his face, showing me that I touched a sensitive nerve. The Crown Prince was a curious mixture. In his intercourse with his friends he liked to forget that he was a Prince, he spoke most freely and unguardedly, and enjoyed a good laugh about a good joke. He allowed his friends to do the same, but suddenly, if any of his friends made a remark that did not quite please him, he drew back, and it took him some time to recover himself. He was a noble and loyal nature."

The Duke of Albany was quite a different sort of prince. He used to crack his last bottle of Rheinwein with the professor; he even fitted him out with a dress suit collected from the Court at Windsor when the professorial portmanteau had miscarried—coat, waistcoat, tie, shorts (note the devil-may-care bluntness of this designation), shoes and buckles. Naturally enough, the professor "looked a perfect guy." The arrival of the luggage saved the situation, but

"I was very much impressed when I saw how, with all the devotion that the Prince felt for his mother, there was this feeling of respect, nay, almost of awe, that made it seem impossible for him to tell his own mother that I was prevented by an accident from obeying her command and appearing at dinner."

Yet the Emperor of Brazil was impatient enough to interrupt Prof. Max Müller when, having begun a discourse on the Veda, he proceeded to describe ancient coinage, and then finance, with "I know all about that, and have studied the question for many years." The professor concludes that he must have been betrayed into some heresy, possibly savouring of bimetallicism. Perhaps so, but there is a touch of nature about poor Dom Pedro's "Let us return to the Veda."

Like many other men of light and leading, the professor has been taken in by beggars in his time; he has even recommended some impostors to his acquaintances. But what are these trifles when he keeps among his treasures a sixpence won from the Prince of Wales at whist? What indeed!

#### LOCAL HISTORY.

*The Dialect and Place Names of Shetland.* By Dr. Jakob Jakobsen. (Lerwick, Manson.)—This, the outcome of three years' research by a Copenhagen student, is a valuable contribution to folk-lore as well as to philology. Whilst reading it we asked a couple of Scottish scholars what they would think was the number of Norse words still surviving in Shetland. "Five hundred," said one, "at a rough guess"; and "Perhaps three hundred," the other. Ten thousand is the true answer, according to Dr. Jakobsen, or four thousand more words than in all the Authorized Version. It sounds amazing. What a time, one thinks, it must have taken a Shetland baby to learn to talk! though, of course, in those old days there would be ample leisure. Here, however, is the solution of the puzzle. Every district, parish, and island has a number of Norn or Norse words peculiar to itself. This is partly due to the fact that the Shetland Isles were colonized in the ninth century from different districts of Norway, which, with its sparse population and high intervening mountains, contained a number of dialects.

Still more is it due to the prevalence in all popular speech of a wealth of seemingly superfluous synonyms. Just as English itself offers *brush* and *scut* besides *tail*, so in the old Norn there were a multitude of names for the different parts of a creature's body, which varied with the creature—five or six words for head, and double that number for tail. And when, since the middle of last century, Scotch got a firm footing in Shetland, and began to conquer the Norn, a number of the old words were forgotten, but some lingered on in one place, others in another. There are old people living still who remember their grandparents speaking the old Norn language; and a few nursery rhymes, riddles, and proverbs in Norn are still preserved, though very corruptly. But the *visiks*, or ballads, have all been forgotten since 1750 or thereby; they were sung to a dance in which men and women joined hands and formed a ring, moving forward and keeping time with the feet. Dr. Jakobsen has seven interesting pages on the transformation by popular fancy of the ancient *Péttr* or *Pietts* into trolls, and arrives by an independent process at much the same conclusions as Mr. David MacRitchie in his 'Fians, Fairies, and Pietts' (1893). We wish he had told us something more of the *dulhoit* or hiding-hat, a "cap of darkness" apparently; but he is very full on the fishermen's "lucky words," that system of taboo, current also in Moray and further south, by which at the *haaf*, or deep-sea fishing, everything has to be called by some mystic name:—

"A sufficient proof that the custom of using lucky words was rooted in the pagan time is to be found in the fact that the minister and the church were on no account to be mentioned by their right names at sea. They represented the new conquering faith which aimed at doing away with the old gods and consequently at disputing the sea-god's dominion of the sea. Being thus offensive to the sea-god and the sea-spirits, the church had to be called *de benihooose*, and the minister *de upstander*. *Benihooose* means prayer-house, not house of bones, as the popular etymology explains it from the bones of the dead bodies buried in the churchyard. It is a corruption of *benhooose*, prayer-house, which latter form still occurs in the North Isles. *Bøn* is an old Norn word for prayer. The Papa, Sandness, and Aithsting fishermen often used to call the church *de kløster* (O.N. *klaustr*, cloister or monastery). The minister, who could not be called by his right name any more than the church, was called *de beniman* (prayer-man), but more commonly *de upstander*, from his standing up in the pulpit during the sermon. He had many other names, such as *de predikanter* (preacher), *de loader* (from O.N. *lata*, to utter sounds, to speak in a peculiar tone), and *de hoideen* in Unst."

When we have added that the little island of Fetlar, not seventeen square miles in area, contains some two thousand place-names, it will be seen that there is a good deal to learn about Shetland. But probably no Englishmen, and very few Scotchmen, are rightly informed as to Shetland nationality. A well-known member of the Viking Club, talking lately with a friend of the reviewer, spoke of his daughter as half Scotch. "Oh," said the friend, "your wife was English, then?" "English! no," was the puzzled (and puzzling) answer; "my wife was Scotch." We look forward to Dr. Jakobsen's promised 'Etymological Glossary,' which should quite supersede Thomas Edmondston's. Only, meanwhile, he ought to have furnished an alphabetical index of Norn words as well as that of Norn place-names.

The *History of the Blackburn Grammar School*, founded A.D. 1514, which Mr. John Garstang has published at Blackburn through the North-East Lancashire Press Company, is a verbose and boyish production. Although a Scholar of Prof. Rhys's college, he shows no training whatever in either historical work in general or record work in particular—an absolutely unpardonable fault in a local annalist in any county, much more in a county like Lancashire, where there are such large accumulations of material. Out of an historical portion of a hundred pages



nearly twenty are devoted to Roman, Saxon, and mediæval Blackburn, a picturesque description of a hypothetical condition of a supposititious community in the never-to-be-forgotten style of Whitaker's 'Manchester.' The main authority referred to appears to be Whittle's 'Blackburn as It Is.' Amongst other feats Whittle quotes an entry relating to Blackburn from the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' for the year 701. Mr. Garstang is unable to find the entry in "either of the accepted versions of the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,'" but complacently adopts the quotation, feeling sure that so careful a writer as Whittle would not make so detailed a statement without some written authority! The (quite needless) portion of the book relating to Roman Lancashire appears to have been written whilst the author was still ignorant of the name of Mr. Thompson Watkin; for an addendum is inserted on p. 198 referring to Mr. Watkin's conclusions about the tenth Antonine Itinerary, as if Mr. Watkin's work had been published before the inception of Mr. Garstang's labours and the printing of his book. The story of the school itself occupies seventy padded pages, to which succeed a few brief memoirs of some modern alumni of the school (including Mr. Garstang himself), annals of the school, some trumpery nineteenth-century narratives, and certain appendices containing transcripts of the foundation deed of 1514, the royal charter of 1567, and some extracts from the school records. The only value of the book lies in this last item, and but for it the author would have been well advised to have left his writing in the columns of the *Blackburn Weekly Standard and Express*. If Mr. Garstang's "researches into a wider field," with the publication of which he threatens us, are to be of the same puerile and unscientific sort, he will do well to suppress them, and devote first a few years to the general acquisition of knowledge and to an apprenticeship to record work.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MR. EDWARD ARNOLD publishes *With the Mission to Menelik, 1897*, by Count Gleichen, which is certain to have a large sale, but, though entertaining, is not of any great importance. The mission which was sent to Menelik consisted of Mr. (now Sir Rennell) Rodd and a number of distinguished officers of Guards, Household Cavalry, and other select corps, who represented the social and ornamental side of the business. Mr. Rodd and Col. Wingate kept their official information for the Government, and although a treaty which they made has just been published, their reports have not, and probably never will be. The other members of the mission were perhaps kept somewhat in the dark, as in so large a body there might have been some who would have talked, and enterprising correspondents—not to mention Count Leontief the Russian, and Prince Henri d'Orléans—were on the look-out for information. When the mission arrived at the Abyssinian Court, French influence was to the fore. A large number of Frenchmen were about the king, and when he received the mission he wore a Russian order and the Legion of Honour. His factotum, who is a Swiss, was also supposed, at all events by the French, to be under French influence, though this is probably a mistake; and M. Ilg is possibly as impartial as his master. The mission, so far as we know, has not dealt in any way with the important question of Abyssinian raids across the Italian sphere of influence and into the British sphere, and we are probably by no means at the end of trouble in this direction. Count Gleichen points out, in excellently chosen language, for which possibly Col. Wingate or Sir Rennell Rodd may be responsible, that Abyssinia is an indefinite factor in Africa, having no boundaries, and stretching out feelers, in the form of armed raids, for very great distances in several direc-

tions. The present lively account of the mission to Menelik has been, on the whole, well issued, and is accompanied by excellent illustrations, some of which are humorous sketches taken on the spot. We note in one case a verbal mistake which shows some slight carelessness, in the statement that the French railway, in the hope of its promoters, may be "produced on to the Upper Nile"; "prolonged towards" is probably what is meant.

ONLY TWO of the poems in *Three Sunsets*, and other Poems (Macmillan), will be new to Lewis Carroll's many admirers, and these two are by no means among the best. The others are either reprints from 'Phantasmagoria,' which has long been out of print, or have been taken from later works by the author. 'Three Sunsets' is to our mind the best of the new things, but it does not go beyond prettiness and grace. It is in the early Victorian manner, and to some extent reminds us of Hood. This is the opening verse:—

He saw her once, and in the glance,  
A moment's glance of meeting eyes.  
His heart stood still in sudden trance:  
He trembled with a sweet surprise—  
All in the waning light she stood,  
The star of perfect womanhood."

There are pleasantly graceful verses in many of the others. The reader will, however, receive a shock when, having reached the last page, he sees on the blank page opposite 'A Song of Love' an impressive request in "small caps" to "Turn Over," and having turned over finds only the publishers' announcement of the price at which Lewis Carroll's works can be bought, likewise a "Wonderland Case for Postage Stamps." The illustrations by Miss E. Gertrude Thomson are good and attractive. They are rather in the style of Mr. Colman's.

WANT of continuity in arranging the incidents and of a just estimate of their proportionate value, together with an absence of literary skill, seriously depreciate the worth as a memoir of *Thomas Best Jervis*, by W. P. Jervis (Stock); yet it contains matter interesting to a variety of persons: to Engineer officers and geographers because he was a distinguished member of the corps and of the society, and to a wider section of the public because of his sympathy with missions and missionaries. He was educated at Addiscombe in the early days of that institution, and was appointed to the Bombay Engineers in 1813. His chief work was connected with surveying, which he prosecuted with such success as to get the length of being nominated to succeed the well-known Col. Everest as Surveyor-General of India. He got no further, however, for circumstances prevented Everest from resigning, and Jervis, presumably tired of waiting, left the service in 1841 and returned to England, where he employed himself chiefly in scientific pursuits. He came again before the public at the time of the Crimean War, when he was appointed to the charge of the Statistical and Topographical Office in connexion with the War Department. It is recorded that he was related to the Earl of St. Vincent, and that in early years his promotion was slow, a fact accounted for in the following remarkable way: "Owing to his great humility of disposition, it was seven and a half years before he rose to the rank of lieutenant." He died in 1857, aged sixty years. The book contains some interesting illustrations.

*Under Shadow of the Mission*, by L. Studdiford McChesney (Methuen & Co.), is what used to be called a pretty book. It gives the writer's memories of a summer in California, with her thoughts, reflections, and studies. A cultivated lady, who has travelled a good deal in all parts of the world where Americans do travel, has a good deal to say that is pleasant and a great many charming reminiscences with which to ornament her pages. She is apt to be discursive, to make too much of very small bits of humour, and not to draw a firm enough line between what is and what is not commonplace. Leisure and patience

are required for the perusal of her book. It is nicely written, but too long.

ONE of the "Dumpy Books for Children" (Grant Richards) is a selection from *Mrs. Turner's Cautionary Stories*. These tales in verse, which taught our grandparents to be good, are delightfully pat and moral, and a pleasant contrast to much of the affected stuff ostensibly written nowadays for children, though no child could possibly appreciate it.

THE collection of *Religious Pamphlets* which Mr. Deamer has edited (Kegan Paul & Co.) covers a period—from Wyclif to Cardinal Newman—too great to be compressed in a single volume; hence there are striking gaps, for instance between Law and Sydney Smith, and consequently the whole Methodist movement and Evangelical revival are ignored. Accordingly the editor has—reluctantly, he says—left out Wesley's 'Plain Account of the People called Methodists.' Other conspicuous omissions are Middleton, Penn, and Priestley.

DR. BUCHHEIM has written a judicious and sensible preface to the selection of *Heinrich Heine's Lieder und Gedichte* which Messrs. Macmillan have added to their "Golden Treasury" series, and he has subjoined excellent notes that are not too lengthy. He is an old and warm admirer of Heine, and if we except a somewhat natural desire to explain away Heine's preference for France over Germany, there is nothing in his criticism to which to take exception. His pleasant volume is accurately printed—we have noticed only one misprint—and may be warmly commended to lovers of genuine poetry.

M. JOSEPH REINACH does not name the Dreyfus case in his little volume *Raphaël Lévy: une Erreur Judiciaire sous Louis XIV.*, published by M. Ch. Delagrave, of Paris, but it is certain that in writing it he must have had in mind the shameful injustice which, in many cases, has been done to Jews on account of anti-Semitic prejudice, and the difficulties which, in moments of excitement, Jews have in many countries of obtaining a fair trial. M. Reinach's case shows a Jew condemned to torture and to be burnt alive in 1670, through the anti-Jewish prejudice in Metz of the Christian rivals of the Jews in the same trade. He also shows how wisely and strongly Louis XIV. espoused the Jewish side, which was the side of toleration and mercy, in the proceedings which ensued.

In the sumptuous edition of "The Works of George Meredith" which Messrs. Constable are publishing have appeared vols. xxv. and xxvi. The former contains *The Shaving of Shagpat*, the brilliant fantasia that the critics acclaimed and the public rejected in 1855; *The Tragic Comedians* fills the latter. Of the excellent edition of the novels which the publishers are bringing out in single volumes at six shillings each the charming *Diana of the Crossways* is the latest instalment.

THREE new volumes, containing *The Black Dwarf* and *Rob Roy*, have appeared in Messrs. Dent's pleasant edition of the Waverley novels.

A SECOND edition, in one volume, of *Lady Mary Loyd's* translation of M. Waliszewski's *Peter the Great* (Athen. No. 3637) has been issued by Mr. Heinemann.—An illustrated edition of *No Relations*, an excellent translation of M. Hector Malot's 'Sans Famille,' has been published by Messrs. Bentley & Son.

MESSRS. MITCHELL & Co. have sent us the new issue of that useful annual the *Newspaper Press Directory*. It contains, besides much other important matter, an article on 'London Local Papers,' by Mr. Walter Wellman. Dr. Fraser has revised for this issue his essay on the 'Law of Copyright and Libel.'

We have received the *Reports of the Free Libraries* at Belfast, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Fulham, Manchester, Watford, and West Bromwich. The reports from Belfast and Man-

chester speak of increasing prosperity. At Bradford, too, the libraries flourish, but the need of a new art gallery is insisted on. At Clerkenwell steps have been taken to get rid of the habitual loafer. At Fulham, in spite of inconvenient premises, the libraries are growing in popularity and use. From Watford also comes the complaint of inadequate accommodation, which militates, it is said, against extended use of the libraries. At West Bromwich there seems to be a falling off in the number of readers in the reference library, and also of borrowers from the lending library. A catalogue has reached us from the excellent Mechanics' Institution at Swindon and that of the books in the lending library of Richmond, Surrey, which is in a fourth edition.

We have on our table *The Hill of the Graces*, by H. S. Cowper (Methuen),—*With Nature and a Camera*, by R. Kearton (Cassell),—*The Life and Times of Cardinal Wiseman*, by W. Ward, 2 vols. (Longmans),—*A Handbook of European History, 471-1871*, by A. Hassall (Macmillan),—*Carmel in Ireland*, by Father Patrick of St. Joseph (Burns & Oates),—*The Yersin Phonographic Method of French Pronunciation, Accent, and Diction: French and English*, by M. and J. Yersin (Lippincott),—*Drill on the Essentials of French Accidence and Elementary Syntax*, by V. Spiers (Simpkin),—*Scenes of English Life: Book I. Children's Life*, by H. Swan and V. Bétis (Philip),—*German Stories for Lower and Middle Forms*, edited by L. de Saumarez Brock (Blackie),—*Teaching as a Business*, by C. W. Bardeen (Syracuse, N.Y., Bardeen),—*A Three-Year Preparatory Course in French: First Year*, by C. F. Kroch (Macmillan),—*The Herbarian Psychology applied to Education*, by J. Adams (Isbister),—*Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Lycia, Pamphylia, and Pisidia*, by G. F. Hill (Longmans),—*Theory of Groups of Finite Order*, by W. Burnside (Cambridge, University Press),—*Practical Dressmaking*, by Mrs. J. Broughton (Macmillan),—*Studies in Philosophical Criticism and Construction*, by S. H. Mellone (Blackwood),—*Practical Idealism*, by W. De Witt Hyde (Macmillan),—*The War of the Theatres*, by J. H. Penniman (Ginn),—*Little Journeys to the Homes of Famous Women*, by E. Hubbard (Putnam),—*The Lawyer's Remembrancer and Pocket-Book, 1898*, by A. Powell (Field),—*Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome*, edited by W. T. Webb (Macmillan),—*Ethical Systems*, by W. Wundt (Sonnenchein),—*The Harveian Oration, 1897*, by Sir William Roberts, M.D. (Smith & Elder),—*The Young Emigrants*, by C. L. Johnstone (Nelson),—*A Wife's Faith*, by Mrs. Stevenson (C.E.T.S.),—*The Statue in the Air*, by C. E. Le Conte (Macmillan),—*Famous Frigate Actions*, by C. R. Low (Virtue),—*Some Western Folk*, by M. Q. Couch (Marshall & Son),—*Among Thorns*, by N. Ainslie (Lawrence & Bullen),—*Our Own Magazine*, Vol. XVIII., edited by T. B. Bishop (Children's Special Service Mission),—*Nurse Adelaide*, by B. Otterburn (Digby & Long),—*A Deserter from Philistia*, by E. P. Train (Bowden),—*Love's Usuries*, by L. Creswicke (Drane),—*Flora Macdonald, the Maid of Skye*, by J. G. Phillips (Digby & Long),—*Lays of the Red Branch*, by Sir Samuel Ferguson (Fisher Unwin),—*Bad Lady Betty, a Drama in Three Acts*, by W. D. Scull (E. Mathews),—*The Enchanted River, and other Poems*, by A. Ralli (Digby & Long),—*The Argument of Adaptation; or, Natural Theology Reconsidered*, by the Rev. G. Henslow (Stoneman),—*Work-a-Day Sermons*, by the Rev. F. B. Meyer (Bowden),—*Early Promoted: a Memoir of the Rev. W. S. Cox (Low)*,—*Lessons on the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer*, by the Rev. R. R. Resker (C.E.S.S.I.),—*Does God Care? (Stock)*,—*University and other Sermons*, by C. J. Vaughan, D.D. (Macmillan),—*and Deeds that Won the Empire*, by W. H. Fitchett (Smith, Elder & Co.). Among New Editions we have *Discoveries and Inventions*

of the Nineteenth Century, by R. Routledge (Routledge),—and a *Table of the Death Duties, including the New Estate Duties*, by E. Harris (Clowes & Sons).

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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## THE WAVERLEY NOVELS.

MAY I be allowed to say that I have not even seen the new issue of the "Border" Waverley Novels, and have had no opportunity to revise my notes and introductions? A. LANG.

## THE NAVY IN THE TIME OF JAMES II.

THE naval MS., temp. James II., on which Mr. Chalkley Gould read a paper before the British Archaeological Association, reported in the *Athenæum* of February 12th, seems to me to be the same that I possess in print under the following title: "Memoires relating to the State of the Royal Navy of England for Ten Years Determined, December, 1688. Printed Anno MDCCXC." It has as a frontispiece a copper-plate portrait with the following inscription: "Sam. Pepys. Car. et. Jac. Angl. Regib. a. Secretis. Admiralia." The Sedgemore is described as a fourth-rate, and there is the passage "being with difficulty kept above water" at p. 21. It contains 214 pages.

ROBERT H. HAWES.

## CHARLES I. AND LORD GLAMORGAN.

MR. ROUND, in the *Athenæum* of January 15th, contends that the reference in 1660 by Worcester, formerly Earl of Glamorgan ('Clarendon State Papers,' ii. 201), to a commission granted him by Charles I., refers not to the commission of which the genuineness is disputed, and which bears the date of April 1st, 1644, but to another on which there is no dispute, dated January 6th, 1645. This he supports on various grounds, but principally on Worcester's assertion that he had power by it to erect a mint, whereas there is nothing about a mint in the commission of April, 1644. As there is nothing about a mint in the commission of January, 1645, this argument cuts both ways, and at all events there are words in the one of April, 1644, sufficiently large to cover almost anything:—

"We do by these empower you to contract with any of our loving subjects of England, Ireland, and dominion of Wales, for wardships, customs, woods, or any our rights and prerogatives."—Collins's 'Peerage,' ed. 1812, i. 235.

My main purpose, however, is not to discuss the genuineness of the commission of April, 1644, but to inquire whether it is necessary for me to abandon my belief that the foreign operations referred to in Worcester's letter are to be placed in 1644 and not in 1645. I must begin by acknowledging that I can no longer retain implicit confidence in my interpretation of Worcester's letter, unless it can be supported by



other evidence, as his statement appears to me on re-examination to be too confused to build with certainty upon it.

Worcester, after an exordium, begins by saying that Clarendon may wonder at "the amplitude" of his commission, and proceeds to give in detail the design which it was intended to cover, such as bringing troops from Ireland and the Continent, &c. Then he goes off to quite another subject, his power to treat for money with the Pope and other Catholic princes. "And," he continues,

"my instructions for this purpose, and my powers to treat and conclude thereupon, were signed by the king under his pocket signet, with blanks for me to put in the names of Pope or princes.....In like manner did I not stick upon having this commission enrolled or assented to by his Council, nor indeed the seal to be put into it in an ordinary manner, but as Mr. Endymion Porter and I could perform it with rollers and no screw press. One thing I beseech your lordship to observe, that though I had power by it to erect a mint anywhere and to dispose of his Majesty's revenues and delinquents' estates, yet never did either to the value of a farthing."—*'Clarendon State Papers,'* ii. 202.

What then is the commission which was irregularly sealed by Glamorgan and Porter? Was it the commission mentioned some time before, or is it a synonym for the powers given to Glamorgan to treat with the Pope and Catholic princes mentioned much more recently? If the latter interpretation is right, then we need not be troubled by the mention that "it" conferred powers to create a mint. The first-mentioned commission may have been that of April 1st, 1644, the second commission that for treating with the Pope and erecting a mint. This is at least plausible, but it is no more. I therefore willingly accept Mr. Round's view that I have built on too unstable a foundation in regard to this letter.

If, however, we seek for corroboration of my view that the proposed foreign negotiation took place in 1644 and not in 1645, we have it, I think, in two documents published by M. Groen van Prinsterer. Worcester, after speaking of armies to be raised in England and Wales, says that

"a third should have consisted of a matter of 6,000 men, 2,000 of which were to have been Liegeois..... 2,000 Lorrainers, and 2,000 of such French, English, Scots, and Irish as could be drawn out of Flanders and Holland: and the 6,000 were to have been, by the Prince of Orange's assistance, in the associated countries; and the Governor of Lynn,\* cousin-german to Major Bacon, major of my regiment, was to have delivered the town to them."

In the instructions sent to Goffe, who was treating for a marriage between the Prince of Wales and a daughter of the Prince of Orange, he is directed to ask the latter

"de fournir pour deux mois 15 ou 20 vaisseaux de guerre et de vaisseaux pour passer deux mille chevaux et quatre mille hommes de pied de la France en Angleterre."—*'Arch. de la Maison d'Orange Nassau,'* ser. ii. tome iv. 103.

France, indeed, was to be asked to furnish the men, so that they are not necessarily the same as those to which Worcester refers; but it is significant that the number of 6,000 is the same in both documents. The instructions were almost certainly given in May, 1644, as the answer of the Prince of Orange is given on June 14/24.

We have also another set of instructions given to Goffe in February or the end of January, 1645,† on the part of Henrietta Maria, that is to say, just after the time when Glamorgan's plans, if they had been advanced, as Mr. Round thinks, in January, 1645, would have been known to the queen. Goffe is there directed to ask for

"la levée des trois mille hommes de pied, pour estre armés et transportés à ses despenses devant la fin du mois de Maie ou environ, en aucune des quartiers du Roy sur le bord de la mer."—*'Ib.,* p. 123.

\* He must mean the Deputy-Governor, as the Governor, Valentine Wanton, cannot have been concerned in such practices.

† They were received in February.

In January, 1645, therefore, the Prince of Orange was asked to raise, at his own expense, and to transport 3,000, and also to transport any number of soldiers given by France or Ireland. This, I submit, points to a different situation from that to which Worcester's letter refers. If I can no longer speak absolutely in fixing the date of Worcester's scheme to 1644, I can at least continue to represent that date as highly probable.

I may add that I do not see that Gage is more likely to have been employed in 1645 than in 1644, as though he was less publicly known at the earlier date, his reputation in the Spanish service must have been well known to Glamorgan. Another point in my favour is that in April, 1644, the arrangements for foreign succours were directly in the hands of the king, whereas in 1645 they were in the hands of the queen, and instead of sending Glamorgan to the Pope, she then employed Sir Kenelm Digby. I would, on these grounds, suggest the following sequence of events:—On April 1st, 1644, when there was a chance of getting an Irish army from the Irish agents at Oxford, Charles gives Glamorgan a wide commission, and, either then or a few days later, another empowering him to treat with the Pope and other princes for money. In May, 1644, the Irish negotiation having broken down, he treats more directly with the Prince of Orange and the French Government. For this reason, and also because the queen is by that time in France, he leaves this negotiation to the queen in the first months of 1645, leaving Glamorgan to carry out his instructions in Ireland, and to take military command of Irish and foreign forces invading England.

SAMUEL R. GARDINER.

#### GEORGE BARRINGTON: WALDRON.

I AM greatly interested in this question of the claim put forward in several quarters on behalf of Barrington, the pickpocket, as the author of the celebrated prologue. I have in my possession a work entitled *'The Laughing Philosopher,'* published in May, 1824, in which the prologue is given in full with this heading: "Prologue, Spoken By Barrington, the Pickpocket, on Opening the Theatre at Sidney, Botany Bay." Whence it is taken is not stated, perhaps from the *'History'* referred to by Mr. Petherick. The prologue in *'The Laughing Philosopher'* begins thus:—

From distant climes o'er wide-spread seas we come,  
Tho' not with much *éclat* or beat of drum;  
True patriots all, for be it understood,  
We left our country for our country's good.

Was Barrington well educated? None but an experienced writer could have written this prologue.

S. J. ADAIR FITZ-GERALD.

#### 'GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.'

77, Queen Street, Cheapside.

My copy of the above (the earliest issue, 1726) has the words "Captain Lemuel Gulliver of Redriff *Etat LVIII*" engraved in the oval border, with a two-line Latin inscription underneath. The plate has the name "Sturter Shepherd. Sc." at foot of right hand. The impression is very bright and fresh, as is the whole of my copy, with, of course, the usual features of separate pagination, quaint maps, &c.

I suppose copies of the portrait do exist without the name in the oval border, as one has always been told that is the correct state for a real first; but I have not yet seen one, and I am glad Mr. Aitken's undoubted first is in the same state as my own.

FREDERICK H. EVANS.

#### MR. THOMAS WALKER.

MR. THOMAS WALKER died on the 16th of this month at 53, Addison Road, Kensington, eleven days after his eighty-sixth birthday. Though his name is unfamiliar to the public, his influence over public opinion while editor

of the *Daily News* equalled that which was exercised by Albany Fonblanque and Delane, Douglas Cook and Holt Hutton, as editors. Born in Northampton, and the son of humble parents, he spent his younger years in labouring with his hands. The rudiments of education which he received at the Northampton Academy were supplemented by self-instruction, with the result that he qualified himself to express his thoughts in writing as tersely and lucidly as Cobbett, and with an idiomatic force and effect which greater scholars might envy. However, he had nothing in common with Cobbett as a journalist except the capacity for writing plain, simple, and good English. Unlike Cobbett, he had a finely balanced judgment, admirable self-control, a critical faculty of great keenness, and a praiseworthy aversion in all things to the "falsehood of extremes." Though he was a Nonconformist, and a conscientious member of the Congregational body, his sympathetic nature, his broad views, and his habit of judging men by their conduct instead of their creed, had nothing puritanical about them. Moreover, he made it a rule to keep literary and political discussion in the columns of a newspaper apart from controversies as to whether religion is theology or theology is religion.

Through the influence of Mr. F. K. Hunt, who was then sub-editor and afterwards the editor of the *Daily News*, Mr. Walker received an appointment on the staff in 1850. In the intervals between the discharge of his journalistic duties he compiled most of the memoirs for the first edition of *'Men of the Time,'* which was published in 1852. Mr. William Weir, who succeeded Mr. Hunt in 1854, counted among his contributors Miss Martineau, Mr. Arnould (afterwards Sir Joseph and a judge in India), Mr. Patrick Cumin (afterwards head of the staff of the Education Department), Prof. Spencer Baynes (afterwards editor of the last edition of *'The Encyclopedia Britannica'*), Mr. G. F. Pigott (afterwards Examiner of Plays), and Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens, who made a name as author and member of Parliament.

Mr. Weir died in the middle of September, 1858, when the principal contributors were holiday-making. Mr. Walker conducted the paper till their return in October, when they met and represented to the managing proprietor their willingness to give a cordial support to Mr. Walker if he were placed in the editorial chair. The *Daily News* was then regarded as the exponent of the philosophic Radicalism of Bentham, George Grote, Sir William Molesworth, and John Stuart Mill, and also as the organ of Lord John Russell, who was neither a philosophic nor a root-and-branch Radical. Liberals of all stripes had a difficult problem to solve when the Civil War began in America, and the *Daily News* was the chief London journal which upheld the side and cause of the North, from the day of the bombardment of Fort Sumter till that on which Lee surrendered and the Confederacy collapsed. The proprietors of that journal and of the *Express* were divided in opinion, and it was not till Mr. Walker intimated that he would retire from the editorship, and Mr. (now Sir John) Robinson, editor of the *Express*, did likewise, that the policy was followed by both journals which had its entire justification in the result. A trial as great was in store for Mr. Walker when the news arrived that Jefferson Davis had been captured; but his sound judgment stood him in good stead, and he emphatically opposed vengeance after victory.

On the 8th of June, 1868, the *Daily News* appeared as a penny paper. During the following twelve months Mr. Walker's health became seriously impaired. He was at Malvern when the editorship of the *London Gazette* fell vacant, this being the only Government office to which a journalist as such could aspire. Many notable members of the press put forward their claims; Mr. Walker made no application, but he received

an offer of the appointment from Mr. Gladstone in highly complimentary terms. He accepted it, and retired from the staff of the *Daily News* after twenty years of faithful and fruitful service. The proprietors passed a resolution to the effect that the journal could not have had a better editor.

Mr. Walker was an occasional contributor for some time afterwards. During the Franco-German War he wrote the daily commentary on the military operations, which was so masterly that Moltke expressed a strong desire to learn the name of the experienced and sagacious officer who, as he fancied, must have written it. He edited the two volumes of the war correspondence of the *Daily News* which were published in 1871. The *London Gazette* had never been edited so well as it was by Mr. Walker. He found the system faulty, and he rendered it perfect. So complete was his reorganization of the office that the Government resolved to suppress the editorship, and to entrust its duties to a clerk in the Stationery Office. When Mr. Walker retired, some time after earning his pension, he devoted himself to practical philanthropy. The Congregational Church, of which he was a member, conferred upon him the highest honour in its gift by electing him President of the Congregational Union. He was a hard worker to the last. He had a modesty, in which there was not a trace of affectation, which prevented him from being conspicuous on public platforms and a favourite guest at civic feasts. None of his many personal friends ever heard a word of self-praise fall from his lips; but he was always ready and emphatic with eulogy for the men of note with whom he had acted or under whom he had served. His freedom from vanity was a proof of his greatness. Daily or weekly journals may appear with the regularity of the sun, while their editors come and go. To the general public the name of the most estimable and capable among editors is a mere symbol without any definite signification. Nevertheless, if the name of such a man deserves to be honoured, then Thomas Walker must occupy a place apart, and a most enviable one in the annals of our time.

#### 'SOME COLLEGE MEMORIES.'

COULD Stevenson, forsaking awhile the fellowship of the immortals, revisit a world he has so much delighted, would it be fair for Bibliography (while strewing flowers in his path) to ask a simple question or two?

"Did you in December, 1886, the month following the copyright publication of 'Some College Memories' by Messrs. Constable & Co. (in 'The New Amphion'), direct Mr. Hepworth to print a separate issue, with the following words on the title-page and cover: 'Edinburgh: printed for Members of the University Union Committee, 1886'?"

Stevenson: "My object in producing this private issue, without informing any of my Edinburgh friends, or taking any notice of Messrs. Constable's copyright interest, must remain an undiscoverable secret. I might easily have obtained Constables' consent to reprint the 'Memories'; I might also have borrowed their block for the portrait; but I did neither of these things. You may observe that the printing is anonymous—that it is inferior to the work of the better houses. That no copies ever reached the members of the University Union Committee, for whom the booklet was professedly printed, is not to be wondered at. I took precautions to prevent it! Purposely avoiding everything that was easy, natural, and inexpensive, I have entirely succeeded in the attainment of my object—to create a mystery and confuse and puzzle everybody."

"Can you state who did the printing for Mr. Hepworth; how many copies were done;

and if any copy has ever been in your own possession?"

These are questions I leave to be answered by the wiseacre bibliographers.

FRANK T. SABIN.

#### 'THE SON OF THE CZAR.'

MR. JAMES M. GRAHAM writes to complain of our strictures on his historical romance. Nowhere does he, he says, "refer to the Princess Charlotte as an archduchess; that title he bestows on Charlotte's mother, to whom it was granted on the marriage of her eldest daughter Elizabeth to the Emperor Charles VI." He has, he says, "read French documents, written by Austrian diplomatists of the last century, wherein Charles VI. is called indifferently the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of Germany, and the Emperor of the Romans. It is a fact," he adds, that "Alexis was a reader of the 'Imitation of Christ,' to which it is believed he was introduced by his second tutor Baron von Huyssen"; and he goes on to say:—

"As to the views of Alexis regarding 'unorthodox' Christians and 'heretics,' it is one of the most notorious facts of his life that on leaving the castle of St. Elmo he made a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Calabrian saint, Nicholas of Bari. Moreover, the following are words of his own: 'There are two men on earth created in the image of God: the Pope of Rome and the Czar of Muscovy.' In 1588, when Jeremiah II., Patriarch of Constantinople, came to Moscow to found the Patriarchate of Russia, the Czar Feodor Ivanovitch was able to offer his guests wines from Greece, in Venetian glasses, and in cups of beaten gold worked in Germany."

He adds that Voltaire is his authority for saying Peter spoke "with eloquence" on most subjects of conversation.

Mr. Graham's explanation leads him into fresh errors. Alexis first met his bride at Carlsbad in 1710, at which time the Archduke Charles was not German Emperor, so that it is difficult to see how he could have already conferred the title on the mother of Charlotte. No one denies that in Latin documents the expression Emperor of the Romans may occasionally be found, but its strangeness is almost grotesque. We should like to have the authority for the statement that Alexis read the 'Imitation of Christ.' All his life the Tsarevich was in the hands of the reactionary party among the Russian clergy, and we know what their feeling was and always has been about the Latins. The pilgrimage of Alexis to the shrine of St. Nicholas at Bari proves nothing. St. Nicholas was a saint of the Greek Church, out of whose life a great deal of folk-lore has arisen. His remains were mysteriously brought from Asia Minor to Bari in the eleventh century (see an interesting paper by Prof. Eugene Anichkov in the *Folk-lore Journal*, June, 1894, p. 114).

#### Literary Gossip.

IN the early autumn a one-volume novel may be expected from the pen of Dr. William Barry, author of 'The New Antigone.' The forthcoming story, entitled 'The Two Standards,' is of a modern, but romantic and even passionate cast. The scene lies chiefly in England, and the characters, which fall into several distinct groups, represent the influence on our time of art, religion, and new forms of life. There is a background of history to 'The Two Standards,' which the ingenious may be left to make out for themselves.

ALTHOUGH not a great library, the collection of books formed by the late Mr. J. H. Johnson, F.C.S., which Messrs. Puttick & Simpson begin selling on Monday next, contains many things of interest. There are a good many rare editions of the Bible, including a very fine

copy of Zainer's German version, 1473-5, with fifty-seven of the initial letters adorned with miniatures; and several from the press of Coburger, in Latin and German. The English versions include an unusually good copy of the Cranmer edition printed by Grafton, July, 1540, collated by Francis Fry, and found to be perfect (the last leaf in facsimile); and one of the very scarce edition printed by E. Whitchurch, 1540, with the Earl of Aylesford's ex-libris. The other rarities include the first English version of Erasmus, 'The Praise of Folie,' 1549; the "Blank Stone edition" of the New Testament, 1537; the Testament in Latin and English, "faithfully translated by Johan Hollybushe," 1538; a very fine copy of the first arithmetical treatise published in England, Tunstall 'De Arte Supputandi Libri Quattuor,' from Pynson's press, 1522; and four examples of Wynkyn de Worde—Capgrave, 'Nova Legenda Angliæ,' 1516; 'The Cronycles of Englonde,' 1520; 'Flowre of the Commandments of God,' 1521; and 'Pilgrimage of Perfection,' 1531, with the Towneley arms.

MR. FERET has finished his 'Fulham Old and New.' He has searched the Court Rolls of the manor, which exist in almost unbroken sequence from 5 Richard II.; the parish books, which extend, with breaks, back to 1625; and the church registers from their commencement in 1675. He has also abstracted the wills of all noteworthy residents of the parish. The writer starts from old Fulham Bridge and the ferry, which he has traced back to the time of King John, and proceeds through the High Street, Burlington Road, and Church Row, to Old Fulham Church. Then he goes along the King's Road to Parson's Green, and continues up the Fulham Road, Walham Green, the North End Road, old North End (now modern West Kensington), Gibbs Green, and Fulham Fields. The concluding portion deals with the district along the river. This chapter, beginning at Crabtree, treats of Fulham Palace, Millbank, the region which lay between the old church and the river, Hurlingham, Broomhouse, the Town Meadows, and Sands End. The book is published at the Leadenhall Press.

THE forty-fourth annual report of the London Association of Correctors of the Press, just issued, is decidedly satisfactory. The members now number 454, and out of these 68 were elected during the past year, while 78 situations were procured. Two useful technical papers were read—the first, by Mr. Lewis Sergeant, on 'The Limits of the Reader's Function'; and the second, by Mr. Josey, the treasurer, on 'Hints to Young Readers.' The rate of mortality during 1897 was 17.5 per 1,000, as against 10 per 1,000 in 1896, which was exceptionally low. During 1897 greatly increased facilities for railway travelling have been afforded to printers employed on morning papers, the Great Eastern having established on its Walthamstow line a half-hour service throughout the night. Readers' Pension No. 2 has been completed, and one hundred guineas is in hand for pension No. 3. The first pension was 16*l.*, while the second is only 10*l.* No. 3 will, by the wise suggestion of the President, Lord Glenesk, be one of 20*l.*



We believe that sometime ago the Marquis de Sassenay was refused leave by the Foreign Office to see our Murat papers of 1815. We have now come across a case where a distinguished English writer has been refused by the Home Office leave to see Home Office records of the period 1790-1815 for historical research. In any other country the records of the period of the great war are, we think, now available. We know that the Russian archives have been thrown open, with the most important possible results. We know that French officers have been allowed to study the military archives at Vienna and at Berlin. These were all cases where it might be supposed that reasons existed for concealment. We should have thought that, on the whole, there was less here to be ashamed of; and certainly the interests of historical truth are beginning to suffer by our policy of concealment.

THE Powysland Club, which was established in 1867, has recently published the thirtieth annual volume of its 'Collections, Historical and Archæological, relating to Montgomeryshire.' Being the only county society of the kind in Wales, it has for the present decided not to abandon that unique position by amalgamating with the Shropshire Archæological Society. Meanwhile, Mr. Richard Williams, of Newtown, is editing for the Club a collection of 'Montgomeryshire Records,' which the late Mr. E. Rowley Morris, F.S.A., had calendared and transcribed, in the Record Office, the British Museum, and other public depositories. These will be published as supplements to the *Transactions*.

A CONCISE history of the ancient Principality and later Barony of Powys, and of the town and castle of Welshpool, contributed by Mr. Robert Owen to the Club's *Transactions*, will also be shortly republished in book form under the title of 'Welshpool and Powysland.'

MR. THOMAS TYLER, editor of Shakspeare's Sonnets, has in the press 'The Herbert-Fitton Theory of the Sonnets: a Reply.' It will be issued by Mr. Nutt.

DR. SEBASTIAN EVANS writes:—

"So far from representing 'a purer and earlier form of the romance,' the Welsh version of the 'High History of the Holy Graal' referred to by your correspondent is simply a mediæval rendering of the very same French work, disfigured by a number of errors and omissions. As the question is fully dealt with in the 'Translator's Epilogue' to the forthcoming book, further discussion may well be deferred for the present."

THE trustees under the will of the late Miss Laura Soames have appointed a travelling lecturer to visit schools and colleges in England and Wales, in order to interest teachers in the application of phonetics to the study of modern languages.

THE first volume of Welsh reprints undertaken by the University Guild of Graduates will shortly be published by a Bangor firm. In addition to the known works of Morgan Llwyd, it will include a biography of that author, and an introduction by the editor, Mr. Thomas Ellis, M.P., who is Warden of the Guild.

MESSRS. LONGMAN have in the press Lady Newdegate's new volume 'The Cheverels of Cheverel Manor,' and also

promise a new book by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb on 'Problems of Modern Industry.'

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

"According to a valuable custom prevailing in Italy, Signor Lisini has issued from the archives of Siena, on the occasion of the marriage of Dr. Alessandro Mocenni to Signorina Castelfranchi of that city, an historical description of the rejoicings in Naples in the year 1465 to celebrate the wedding of Donna Ippolita Sforza Visconti to Alfonso, Duke of Calabria, son and heir of Ferdinand, King of Naples. It recounts the passage of the princess through Siena after obstacles surmounted owing to rumours of the terrible plague still hovering in the vicinity. In an appendix copies are given of a letter from her two brothers to the Duke of Milan, their father; also one from Antonio de Tricio, a privy councillor of Duke Sforza, dated September 16th, 1465. The relation of the reception of the bride in Naples, written by the ambassadors sent by the Republic of Siena, is of striking note, and they say enthusiastically how 'on Saturday, the day on which the lady entered Naples, the sun changed to a light blue colour, so that all men reported such a sight was never before seen.' Signor Lisini has compiled a complete list of the runners and victors in the annual race from the year 1692 to 1800, together with an account of the origin of this famous encounter of the *contrade* of Siena and its regulations, dated in 1720. Bull-fights, having been prohibited at the Council of Trent, ceased in 1590, and this other milder sport was gradually substituted. We have, however, accounts of contests centuries before among the city guilds of peculiar nomenclature, chiefly derived from animals. Signor Lisini has also published a pamphlet on the marks used in the manufacture of fourteenth-century paper at Colle (near Siena), but of mainly local interest."

AN appeal has just been issued at Jena for subscriptions towards a monument in honour of the celebrated Church historian Karl Hase. The erection of the monument is planned for August 25th, 1900, which will be the centenary of his birth.

THE death is announced of Prof. Sayous, of Besançon, well known as an Hungarian scholar of the first rank.

THE Parliamentary Papers of the week include Abstract Accounts of Woods and Forests Department (4d.); the Annual Report of the Local Government Board (1s. 5d.); Historical MSS. Commission, Report on the MSS. of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, preserved at Drumlanrig Castle (1s. 4d.); Army Medical Department, Report for 1896 (1s. 4d.); Report of the Meteorological Council for the Year ending March 31st, 1897 (8d.); and Scheme for the Management of the Foundation known as the Berriew School (2d.).

## SCIENCE

### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE Vienna Geographical Society has earned the thanks of geographers by publishing a translation of the topographical chapters of the 'Mohit,' or 'Encyclopædia of the Indian Ocean,' compiled in 1554 by the Turkish admiral Seidi Ali ben Hosein, surnamed Katib i Rumi. The translation is by Dr. M. Bitter, and it is accompanied by thirty maps constructed by Dr. Tomaschek from the distances, bearings, and latitudes given by the Turkish admiral. The chart thus produced is based upon materials collected by native pilots in the course of cen-

turies. The methods of these pilots differed essentially from that of the scientific astronomers of the age. The notion of an equator was quite foreign to them, and they expressed their latitudes by saying that at a place, the position of which was to be given, the pole star, or some other selected star, culminated so many inches, or "isbas," above the horizon. The altitude they determined by means of a very simple instrument, which may have been the prototype of our cross-staff. The maps produced by Dr. Tomaschek are quite a revelation. They prove that the pilots of Gujarat, Malabar, and Malacca had a very extensive knowledge of the Indian Ocean, which reached along the east coast of Africa as far as Delagoa Bay, and extended southward to the Mascarennas. Vasco da Gama brought home some of these maps, and they were made good use of by Portuguese cartographers, as can easily be proved from the charts of the world passing under the names of Cantino and Canerio.

The *Zeitschrift* of the Berlin Geographical Society has devoted much attention recently to the history of geography. It is not long since it published a facsimile of the only known circular Catalan map of the world, dating back to the middle of the fifteenth century, which was unearthed by Dr. K. Kretschmer in the Biblioteca Estense, and now we have an instructive paper on 'The Beginnings of Magnetical Observations' by Dr. G. Hellmann. The author describes the variation compass, that is, a combination of a portable sundial with a magnetic compass, the invention of which he traces back to Peurbach and Regiomontanus, and presents the results of the earliest recorded observations. His little table of observations made during the sixteenth century is, however, far from complete. It does not record, for instance, an observation made in 1533 by Diogo Afonso, the pilot of the *S. Clara*, at the Cabo das Agulhas, or Needle Cape, which received its name because it was erroneously supposed that the needle there pointed due north. That name is already found on the famous map of the world which Alberto Cantino sent to the Duke of Este in 1502, and it would thus appear that observations of this nature were made during the earliest Portuguese voyages to India, perhaps by Vasco da Gama himself, who is believed to have enjoyed the advantage of having received instructions from the great Hebrew astronomer Zacut.

A strong committee has been formed at Florence to organize the celebration in the spring of the fourth centenary of Paolo Toscanelli and Amerigo Vespucci, both natives of that city. We are glad to hear that the committee proposes on this occasion to publish autograph manuscripts of Vespucci recently discovered, as also the "apograph synchronous codex of Piero Vaglienti, a Florentine merchant and historian, which gives a narrative of Vespucci's voyages." It is confidently asserted that these new documents afford conclusive proof of the apocryphal voyage of 1497-8 having actually been made.

### SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 17.—Sir J. Evans, V.P. and Treasurer, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Connexion between the Electrical Properties and the Chemical Composition of Different Kinds of Glass,' by Profs. A. Gray and J. J. Dobbie; 'On the Magnetic Deformation of Nickel,' by Dr. E. Taylor Jones; 'Upon the Structure and Development of the Enamel of Elasmobranch Fishes,' by Mr. C. S. Tomes; 'On Artificial Temporary Colour Blindness, with an Examination of the Colour Sensations of 109 Persons,' by Mr. G. J. Burch; and 'Contributions to the Mathematical Theory of Evolution: On the Inheritance of the Cephalic Index,' by Miss Cicely Fawcett and Prof. K. Pearson.

GEOLOGICAL.—Feb. 18.—Annual Meeting.—The following were elected to serve on the Council: President, W. Whitaker; Vice-Presidents, Prof. T. G. Bonney, Prof. J. W. Judd, J. J. H. Teall, and Rev. H. H. Winwood; Secretaries, R. S. Herries

and W. W. Watts; *Foreign Secretary*, Sir John Evans; *Treasurer*, W. T. Blanford; *Members of the Council*, W. T. Blanford, Prof. T. G. Bonney, Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, Sir John Evans, F. W. Harmer, R. S. Herries, H. Hicks, Rev. Edwin Hill, G. J. Hinde, W. H. Hudson, Prof. J. W. Judd, J. E. Marr, Prof. H. A. Miers, H. W. Monckton, E. T. Newton, Prof. H. G. Seeley, Prof. W. J. Sollas, A. Strahan, J. J. H. Teall, W. W. Watts, W. Whitaker, Rev. H. H. Winwood, and A. S. Woodward.—The following awards of medals and funds were made: the Wollaston Medal to Prof. F. Zirkel; the Murchison Medal to Mr. T. F. Jamieson; the Lyell Medal to Dr. W. Waagen; the balance of the Wollaston Fund to Mr. E. J. Garwood; the balance of the Murchison Fund to Miss J. Donald; the balance of the Lyell Fund to Mr. H. Woods and Mr. W. H. Shrubsole; part of the balance of the Barlow-Jameson Fund to Mr. E. Greenly.—The President delivered his anniversary address, which dealt with the evidences of the antiquity of man furnished by ossiferous caverns in glaciated districts in Britain.

**SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**—Feb. 17.—Lord Dillon, President, in the chair.—Mr. J. Fenton presented a gold coin of Trajan.—Mr. Willis-Bund, as Local Secretary for South Wales, reported the partial destruction by the Vicar of Strata Florida of the remains of the Cistercian abbey (which lie in the churchyard, and were excavated some years ago at great cost) in order to furnish building material for a new church. Action in the matter was deferred until the next meeting, when Mr. Willis-Bund promised to furnish further particulars. The remains of the chapter-house are reported to have been already destroyed.—Mr. A. F. Leach, by permission of the Corporation, exhibited the 'Liber Albus' and early minute books of the city of Lincoln.—Mr. J. W. Walker exhibited an original indenture, dated August 12th, 13 Henry VII. (1498), containing an inventory of the goods and ornaments in the chapel of St. Mary on Wakefield Bridge, on which he read some historical remarks.—Mr. Hope pointed out the leading features of the inventory, and compared it with an earlier one of the chapel on the bridge at Derby, dated 1466.—Mr. Barclay Squire read a paper on an early sixteenth-century MS. of English music, which was exhibited by the Provost and Fellows of Eton College. The MS. consists of a collection of motets and Magnificats for several voices, written for the use of Eton College about the beginning of the sixteenth century. A large part has been lost, but 125 folios still remain, with the original binding, the stamps on which are the same as those on the Black Book of the Exchequer; they have also been found on a copy of Fitz Herbert's 'Grand Abridgment' (1516). The interesting initials are carefully done, and several have heraldic shields. In its present state the MS. contains 43 complete compositions, for four, five, six, seven, nine, and thirteen voices. Biographical details were given of many of the composers, all of whom are English, the majority seeming to have been connected with Eton or with colleges closely allied to it at Oxford or Cambridge. The MS. is important in the history of English music as representing the tendencies of the national school of composition which succeeded that founded by Dunstable, who died in 1453, and preceded that of which Payrfax (ob. 1529) was the chief. For Eton it possesses an especial interest as showing that from the first the College has fostered the art of music, and may claim to have had a school of composers of its own. The labour and cost of transcribing and rendering generally accessible the contents of this MS. is an important matter which should appeal to all musical Eton men.

**BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—Feb. 16.—Mr. Blashill, Treasurer, in the chair.—Mr. J. Chalkley Gould exhibited a pack of playing-cards printed at Besançon in the latter part of the last century. This pack consists of four suits (Deniers, Batons, Epées, Coupes) of fourteen cards each, viz., ace, king, queen, knight or valet, and ten ordinary numbers; also twenty-two other picture cards, making seventy-eight in all. The twenty-six cards beyond the usual number were used as fortune-telling cards.—The Chairman exhibited a small bag worked with silver thread, which contained a deed, being a conveyance of land with the impression of the seal affixed, the date being 31 Edward I.; and he also exhibited a receipt on paper for money paid to Mr. Abraham Gould, dated 1610, who acknowledged it as a receipt in full from the beginning of the world.—The paper of the evening was by the Rev. W. S. Lach-Szyrma, 'On Australian Lights on Britain in the Later Stone Period.' The author said it might seem futile to suppose that Australia could throw any light upon the prehistoric life of Britain, on the old men of early days, but that really we know so little about the ancient world of the later Stone or Bronze Age that any

light, however dim, is useful. The best existing living illustration in this nineteenth century of the Stone Age and what it was like is to be found in Australia. Men of science tell us that the now extinct Tasmanians were the best representatives of the men of the early Stone Age, and in the still existing Australian races, and our fellow-subjects of the British Empire, we have some of the best representatives of mankind of the later Stone Age or Neolithic period, making, of course, all due allowance for different climatic forces. The habits of thought of the people of the Stone epoch and their ideas concerning natural objects and the heavenly bodies form a very interesting, but difficult subject. Some information on this head may, however, be gleaned from a comparison of the folk and legendary lore of Australia and that of the countries of Southern Europe. In Australian folklore a great confusion is apparent between human beings and animals, and in the folk-lore of Cornwall the remains of a very primitive folk belief in the transmigration of men and women into animals and *vice versa* have lingered almost to our own day. The author quoted from Mrs. Langloh Parker's book on 'Australian Legendary Tales' to show the similarity which might be traced between the folk-lore of Australia and that of Britain as regarded the belief in spirits and the influence of the stars, and pointed out the curious resemblances to be met with in some of our nursery tales and the legends of Australia.—Mr. Gould, Mr. Duppa Lloyd, and the Rev. H. J. D. Astley took part in the discussion which followed.—Mr. Patrick read some notes descriptive of a sketch sent by Mr. J. T. Irvine (received from the rector of Basingham Church, Lincs.) of a curious early font discovered below the floor when the church was restored. It is oblong in shape, 2 ft. long and 1 ft. 5 in. wide and deep, resting on a base of stone 2 ft. 4 in. long and 10 in. thick. The font has on one face interlacing knotwork and cable moulding of uncommon design, and has apparently been formed out of the socket-stone of a still older churchyard cross.

**NUMISMATIC.**—Feb. 17.—Sir J. Evans, President, in the chair.—H.R.H. the Prince of Naples, Prof. Luigi Adriano Milani (of Florence), Dr. H. Dressel (of Berlin), and M. J. A. Blanchet (of Paris) were elected Honorary Members; and Mr. A. A. Banes, Mr. F. Sherman Benson, and the Rev. A. Watson Hands Ordinary Members.—The President exhibited a remarkably fine series of nobles of Edward III. from his collection in illustration of the paper on the Balcombe find which was before the meeting; and Mr. W. T. Ready showed a half-crown of Charles I. with the Bristol reverse, but having on the obverse the plumes of Shrewsbury, and under the horse the rose of Exeter.—Mr. Grueber communicated the first portion of a joint paper by himself and Mr. L. A. Lawrence on a recent find of coins at Balcombe, in Sussex. The hoard consisted of pennies of Edward I. and II.; nobles, groats, half-groats, pennies, and half-pennies of Edward III.; and groats, half-groats, pennies, and half-pennies of Richard II., with a few Scottish sterling and foreign deniers. There were in all 12 gold and 742 silver coins. The hoard was specially rich in the groats and half-groats of Edward III. struck between A.D. 1351 and 1360; and the numerous varieties admitted of their being divided into several classes in some chronological sequence. In this respect it was the largest hoard that had been discovered in recent times. Amongst the nobles there were several unpublished varieties.

**ZOOLOGICAL.**—Feb. 15.—Dr. A. Günther, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions to the menagerie during January.—A letter was read from Mr. Dudley Le Soué, of Melbourne, containing a summary of some observations on the transfer by the mother of an embryo kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) by her mouth into her pouch.—A report was read, drawn up by the Society's head-keeper, on the insects exhibited in the Insect House during 1897, and a series of the specimens was exhibited.—The Secretary exhibited a series of specimens of butterflies, which had formed part of a collection lately on view at the Dunthorne Gallery, in illustration of the mode of mounting employed in 'Denton's Patent Butterfly Tablets.'—Mr. W. P. Pyecraft read the first of a series of contributions to the osteology of birds. The present part (of which the following is an abstract) related to the Steganopodes: "The fact that in the tropic birds, cormorants, gannets, and frigate-birds all the toes are united by a common web has led to the belief that these forms are closely related; they form the sub-order Steganopodes or Totipalmatæ of authors. A comparison of the osteology of the group confirms this opinion. Phalacrocorax may be taken as the type of the sub-order, which may be divided into three sections according to the form of the basitemporal plate. In Phalacrocorax and Plotus this is seen in its most generalized form, and agrees with that of the Ciconiæ. Sula is the nearest ally of the

cormorants, as is shown by the close resemblance in the form of the fused palatines, and of the pectoral and pelvic girdles and limbs. Sula, it is evident from the form of the basitemporal plate, leads to Fregata. The pelicans resemble the cormorants and gannets in the form of the palatines—which are, however, more highly modified than in these families—as also of the sternum, lachrymal, and nasal hinge. Phaethon is the most aberrant of the group, but agrees most nearly with the pelicans in the form of the basitemporal plate, which differs from that of the preceding families. Its sternum, though distinctly steganopodous, differs in that the free end of the clavicle does not articulate with the coracoid by a flattened facet. Phalacrocorax, it is contended, must be regarded as the typical steganopod. Sula and Fregata fall into places on the one side, Pelicanus and Phaethon on the other side of this family. Phaethon and Fregata represent the two extremes of the sub-order; they alone retain the vomer, and in them the modification of the palatines and of the maxillo-palatine processes is comparatively slight."—Dr. W. G. Ridewood read a paper on the skeleton of regenerated limbs of the midwife-toad (*Alytes obstetricans*). He demonstrated the possibility of the development, in the regenerated hind limb of the larva, of tarsal, metatarsal, and phalangeal cartilages identical in every respect with those of the normal limb.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger described a new species of sea-snake from Borneo, which he proposed to name *Hydrophis floweri*, after its discoverer, Mr. Stanley Flower; he also gave an account of the reptiles and batrachians collected by Mr. W. F. H. Rosenberg in Western Ecuador. Seventy-seven species were enumerated, of which twenty-three—viz., eleven reptiles and twelve batrachians—were described as new.

**PHILOLOGICAL.**—Feb. 11.—Mr. E. L. Brandreth in the chair.—Mr. F. T. Elworthy read a paper, 'More Words and Phrases in the Somerset Dialect,' in continuation of his former contributions. He had noted how the Board schools had affected the weak participles in -ed. Formerly a mother would say, "Lize, you didn't ought to a-weard your best shoes to school." Eliza would answer, "Well, mother, I wore my t'others all last year, and they be a-wore out." Then the mother would adopt the vowel change, and the next time would tell Eliza she should have a-wor'd her other hat; and wor'd and a-wor'd (woar'd, wwoar'd) would become household words. To his old list Mr. Elworthy could add only "hang" (ang, uung'd, u-uung'd and u-gou'nd "gone"). A man said of his apple crop, "They be all a-zold, and very zoon they'll be all a-goned." The Board school has not altered the double or treble negative: "I be safe they on't never not be able vor to do it vor no jis money" is still the sentence for "I'm sure they'll not be able to do it for any such sum." But the school teachers seem to have made their pupils feel that such names as bull, stallion, boar, cock, ram, are indelicate; and in their stead are now used "bullick," horse, pig, bird, sheep: "Mr. B. do always keep a thorough good bullick" (and this though a cow is also so named: "Her's a capital sort of a bullick"); "Mr. C. have a-bought two rare sheep; he's ter'ble particklar what sheep he don't put long way hees ewes"; "Nobody don't keep nother pig, no no nearer 'n Mr. D. to Farm"; "Nif don't keep a good lot o' birds, can't do much w' pultry: tidn zo good the hen; 'tis the bird"; "One bird and dree hens is a plenty vor wee." The prefix to the past participle (A-S. ge) is still kept: "Somebody 've a-ben an' a-stold all my plants." Of the hundred fresh dialect words that Mr. Elworthy quoted, we take a few: barker, a whetstone, scythestone; chissom, to sprout ("The zeed tatoes had a-chissomd out beautiful"); chary, to do odd jobs; dukin-time, that of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion; flumes, hectic flush; halse, hazel; lich-way ("I tell ee 'tis a proper lich-way; you can't stop 'm: why, I can mind how th' old dame Good was a-card thick way"); ownself, selfish ("Ter'ble ownzul sort of a fuller"); soap and suds ("Her's a proper old soap-an-zids, her is"); tacky-lacky, a drudge ("Poor maid, her's tacky-lacky to all the other sarvants");—Mr. S. Dodgson read a paper 'On the Construction of Eya with the Conjunction Verb in Old Basque.' This showed the mistake of the late Prince L. L. Bonaparte in saying that the ending -nez in verbal forms following eya, if, whether, consisted of n, the usual conjunctive ending, and the negative ez, with edo or ala, the words for "or," left out, so that "eya-nez" would mean "if.....or not." Passages were cited from Leizarragas's Basque New Testament of 1571 and other authorities, proving that in no case could the termination nez have the meaning of "or not," but that it was only a pleonastic complement to carry out the sense of the interrogative or conditional participle eya.



**CHEMICAL.**—Feb. 17.—Prof. J. Dewar, President, in the chair.—Thirty-four gentlemen were elected Fellows.—The following papers were received: 'Observations on the Influence of the Silent Discharge on Atmospheric Air,' by Messrs. W. A. Shennstone and W. T. Evans; 'Some Lecture Experiments,' by Mr. J. Tudor Cundall; 'On the Condensation of Formaldehyde with Ethylic Malonate; and on Cis- and Trans- Tetramethylene- Dicarboxylic Acid,' by Messrs. E. Haworth and W. H. Perkin, jun.; 'A Chemical Investigation of the Constituents of Indian and American *Podophyllum emodi* and *Podophyllum peltatum*,' 'The Volatile Constituents of the Wood of *Goupia tomentosa*,' and 'On Oxyannabin from Indian Hemp,' by Messrs. W. R. Dunstan and T. A. Henry; 'Note on the Preparation and Properties of Orthochlorobromobenzene,' by Drs. J. J. Dobbie and F. Marsden; 'The Ultra-Violet Absorption Spectra of some Closed-Chain Carbon Compounds,' and 'Note on the Absorption Bands in the Spectrum of Benzene,' by Mr. W. H. Hartley and Dr. J. J. Dobbie; and 'Formation of Ethylic Dihydroxydinicotinate from Ethylic Cyanacetate,' by Dr. S. Ruhemann and Mr. K. C. Bynan.

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—Feb. 22.—Sir J. Wolfe Barry, President, in the chair.—The papers read were 'The Theory, Design, and Working of Alternate-Current Motors,' by Mr. Llewellyn B. Atkinson, and 'Dublin Electric Tramway,' by Mr. H. F. Parshall.

**MATHEMATICAL.**—Feb. 10.—Prof. Elliott, President, in the chair.—Mr. B. Hopkinson was admitted into the Society.—Lieut.-Col. Cunningham read a paper 'On Aurifeuillians,' which Mr. C. E. Bickmore supplemented at some length by a treatment of the subject from another point of view. A discussion took place on the two communications.—Lieut.-Col. Cunningham having taken the chair (*pro tem*), the President communicated a paper by Mr. J. E. Campbell, entitled 'On the Transformations which leave the Length of Arcs on any Surface Unaltered.'—Mr. E. Hargreaves made a brief impromptu communication.

**HISTORICAL.**—Feb. 18.—*Annual Meeting.*—Sir M. E. Grant Duff, President, in the chair.—Sir John Lubbock, Prof. H. F. Pelham, and Mr. Frederic Harrison, the retiring Vice-Presidents, were re-elected, and the retiring Members of Council (Prof. G. W. Prothero and T. F. Tout, Mr. C. R. Beazley, and the Rev. J. E. Bright) were also re-elected.—Mr. F. York Powell, Regius Professor of History at Oxford, was elected an Honorary Fellow.—The Council presented their annual Report.—The President delivered his address, taking for his subject Cicero as the type of an historian, orator, and statesman.

**ARISTOTELIAN.**—Feb. 14.—Mr. S. H. Hodgson, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Boyce Gibson read a paper 'On the Method of Descartes.'—The paper was followed by a discussion.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.**—Feb. 21.—Dr. Garnett in the chair.—Mr. Cyril Davenport read a paper 'On English Embroidered Bindings.' These he divided into three classes, according to the material—canvas or linen, velvet, and silk or satin—used at different periods, the style of decoration varying according to the fabric employed as a basis. The mysteries of the different stitches used in the work were explained, and the beauties of these peculiarly English bindings illustrated by lantern-slides of upwards of forty of the finest specimens now extant, among those shown being the three book-covers which tradition assigns to Queen Elizabeth.—A discussion followed, opened by Dr. Garnett, and continued by Mr. Redgrave, Mr. Gleeson White, Mr. Wheatley, Mrs. Sparling (Miss May Morris), Mr. Welch, and Mr. Almack.—In reply to questions, Mr. Davenport expressed his conviction that the bindings he had been describing were far less fragile than was usually supposed. The only specimen whose authorship could be traced was the work of a woman, and he doubted whether the Broderers' Company would have concerned itself with these bindings. The known specimens of the work done by the Sisters of Little Gidding were either leather bindings or velvet stamped in gold, not embroidered, and the attribution in sale catalogues of embroidered books to Little Gidding was quite unjustifiable.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** London Institution, 5.—'St. Paul's Cathedral,' Canon Benham.
- Institute of Actuaries, 5.—'The Relation of the Actuarial Profession to the State,' Mr. J. Nicol.
- Tues.** Aristotelian, 8.—'The Essence of Revenge,' Dr. E. Westermarck.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'The Principles of Design in Form,' Lecture III, Mr. H. Stannus. (Contest Lecture.)
- Wed.** Geographical, 8.—'The Annual Range of Temperature in the Surface Waters of the Ocean, and its Bearing on Oceanographical Problems,' Dr. J. Murray.
- Royal Institution, 8.—'The Simplest Living Things,' Lecture VII, Prof. E. Ray Lankester.
- Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on 'The Theory, Design, and Practical Working of Alternate-Current Motors' and 'The Dublin Electric Tramway.'

- Tues.** Society of Biblical Archaeology, 8.—'Observations on the Nagadad Period,' Prof. Wiedemann.
- Zoological, 8.—'The Perforate Corals collected by the Author in the South Pacific,' Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner; 'The Myology of the Terrestrial Carnivora,' Part II, Prof. H. C. A. Windie and Mr. F. G. Parsons; 'The Brain and some other Points in the Anatomy of *Basasius*,' Mr. F. E. Beddard.
- Wed.** Archaeological Institute, 4.—'Tilting in Tudor Times,' Viscount Dillon; 'The Origin of Sherborne School, Dorset,' Mr. A. F. Leach.
- Entomological, 8.—
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Kites, their Theory and Practice,' Capt. H. F. S. Baden-Powell.
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—'The French Stonehenge,' Mr. T. Gato Worfold.
- Thurs.** Royal Institution, 3.—'Recent Researches in Magnetism and Diamagnetism,' Lecture I, Prof. J. A. Fleming.
- Royal United Service Institution, 3.—'The Battle Training of Infantry,' Major A. W. A. Pollock.
- Royal, 4.—
- Chemical, 8.—'Note on the Preparation of Dry Hydrogen Cyanide and Carbon Monoxide,' Messrs. J. Wade and L. C. Partridge; 'Production of some Nitro- and Amido-Oxytindines,' Dr. J. N. Collie and T. Tickle; 'Production of some Nitro- and Amido-Oxytindines,' Part II, Dr. J. N. Collie and Miss L. Hall; 'The Interaction of Magnesium and Solution of Copper Sulphate,' Dr. E. Divers.
- Linnean, 8.—'The Sense Organs of the Lateral Line in Certain Fishes,' Mr. F. J. Cole; 'The Occurrence of *Coxia helvola* in Britain,' Mr. G. D. Lowe; 'Arctic Spiders from Franz Josef Land,' Rev. O. Pickard-Cambridge.
- Fri.** Antiquaries, 8.—Election of Fellows.
- Philosophical, 8.—'The Manuscripts and Text of the Anglo-Saxon "Boethius,"' Mr. J. W. Sedgwick.
- Royal Institution, 9.—'On some Recent Results of Physico-Chemical Inquiry,' Prof. T. E. Thorpe.
- Sat.** Royal Institution, 3.—'On English Letter-Writers,' Lecture I, Prof. W. R. Inge.

#### Science Gossip.

THE demand for early herbals and old books on gardening is developing into a miniature species of mania. Mr. Quaritch is preparing a catalogue of books in his stock which come within this classification. On March 23rd Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge will offer an extraordinary collection of herbals, chiefly printed before the year 1500. The first lot of all is an important and interesting French MS. of the fifteenth century, with the title 'Le Livre des Simples Médecines,' &c., with many hundred coloured drawings of plants, &c. The books relating to gardening, flowers, &c., comprise 149 lots; many are very rare. There is a fine copy of the beautiful volume dedicated to Marguerite de Valois, 'Des Fleurs où sont contenuz plusieurs secretes de Médecine,' 1581, and also a beautiful copy of Mollet's 'Le Jardin de Plaisir,' Stockholm, 1651, one of the rarest works on the subject.

MESSRS. CROSBY LOCKWOOD & SON ask us to state that the forthcoming work on 'Submarine Telegraphs: their History, Construction, and Working,' by Mr. Charles Bright, will be published very shortly. Subscription orders should reach 7, Stationers' Hall Court not later than Monday next.

MR. JOHN C. NIMMO will publish early in March 'Audubon and his Journals,' by Miss Maria R. Audubon, with notes by Dr. Elliott Coues, the American naturalist. The work will have illustrations, thirty-seven in all, including some hitherto unpublished bird-drawings, and will contain, in addition to an authoritative biography, the full text of Audubon's valuable journals, not hitherto published.

CAMBRIDGE continues to give evidence of the inadequacy of its endowments. The General Board of Studies recommends that the Professorship of Surgery, vacated by the death of Sir George Humphry, shall not be filled up.

THE planet Mercury will be at superior conjunction with the sun on the 16th prox., but will perhaps become visible to the naked eye at the end of that month whilst setting nearly an hour after sunset. Venus throughout March is an evening star, setting a little later each night, and at the end of the month nearly an hour after the sun. Mars is a morning star, rising only about an hour before sunrise. Jupiter will be in opposition to the sun on the 25th and is a conspicuous object the whole night, situated in the western part of the constellation Virgo. Saturn is stationary in the north-eastern part of Scorpio, near its boundary with Ophiuchus, and rises about 2 o'clock in the morning. The moon will occult Antares on the morning of the 14th; disappearance 2<sup>h</sup> 38<sup>m</sup>, reappearance 3<sup>h</sup> 49<sup>m</sup>, Greenwich time; also  $\delta$  Geminorum on the 30th, disappearance 47 minutes before, and reappearance 14 minutes after midnight.

IN Circular No. 46 of the Wolsingham Observatory, Mr. Espin announces the discovery of a remarkable object (R.A. 4<sup>h</sup> 29<sup>m</sup>, N.P.D. 39° 10') in the constellation Camelopardus, which was seen on the 16th ult. and on three other nights. It is elliptical, one degree in length, and is, he thinks, unique in appearance, rather resembling some obscuring medium than a nebula.

#### FINE ARTS

##### ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

*The Pecorone of Ser Giovanni.* Translated by W. G. Waters. Illustrated. (Lawrence & Bullen.)—The 'Pecorone' has been translated with frankness and vivacity by Mr. Waters, and it is illustrated with original designs of great merit by Mr. E. R. Hughes, one of the most accomplished draughtsmen of our time. Like the tales of Masuccio and Straparola, these tales have never been translated into English before, and, in this country at least, are still less known, although to one or two of our playwrights and novelists a few of the more striking and picturesque 'situations' have, with certain changes of local colour, supplied serviceable help. Indeed, except incompletely, 'Il Pecorone' has not been rendered into a foreign tongue. The objections to it as a book for family reading are precisely those which apply to the 'Decameron' and its successors, but they are less considerable. The writer has substituted for Boccaccio's garden party the authorized interviews in a convent parlour at Forlì of a beautiful young nun, by name Saturnia, and her most exemplary admirer, the "well-mannered youth of Florence," Auretto. For five- and twenty successive days did this admirable pair meet platonically in the parlour and each tell a story. Mr. Waters, in his erudite introductory essay, not only relates so much as he has been able to gather about Ser Giovanni individually, but recounts the history of his book, as well as of the sources of some of the tales he incorporated, and the manner and whereabouts of the few adaptations of them, or parts of them, which appeared after their publication. A large proportion had, with certain minor differences already appeared in older 'Novellieri,' and it is fair to say, with Mr. Waters, that Ser Giovanni's versions do really 'gain in decency if not in dramatic force.' In the latter element they are not at all deficient. At the same time let us add that here and there a certain directness of description and vivacity is by no means wanting in 'Il Pecorone,' which, however, knows little or nothing of the occasional coarseness of the 'Decameron.' Be this as it may, the reader cannot fail to notice in the earlier portions of the compilation stories of the same character as those of which the 'Decameron' is full, while in the latter part the tales are, so to say, more or less travesties of legitimate histories—quaint and vivid inversions of the truth. For example, a version of her history and of her taking for her second husband the son of the Duke of Bavaria—Ser Giovanni ignored the first of her spouses—is related with a charming naïveté by Auretto to Saturnia which would have surprised the Countess Matilda. Further on we hear how Attila overthrew Florence, how Charlemagne became emperor, how the world was divided into three parts, and how Æneas passed from Troy into Italy. Of Mr. Hughes's illustrations the pity is that there are so few of them. Of the best it is impossible to speak too highly. The charms of his ladies are undeniable, from those of Madonna Giovanna watching her indignant husband to those of the naked Countess Matilda defying her spouse. It is with nude and graceful figures Mr. Hughes, as in previous cases, succeeds best—see the design of Petruccia da Viterbo, facing p. 37; but he does not fail

in draped and half-draped compositions, such as those of the Princess Lena (p. 115, Novel II.), the group of monks with the boy rescued from the tomb, and the death of Corso Donati.

We have received from Messrs. Low & Co. Parts II. to VI. of their English version of the *Life of our Lord Jesus Christ*, illustrated by M. J. Tissot. Having already spoken in the highest terms of Part I. of this publication, it remains to say that the five parts now before us reproduce the coloration of the originals more especially with great good fortune, and display their strong points, extraordinarily picturesque invention, insight, and dramatic feeling to advantage. The startling originality of the conception of 'Jesus taken up into a High Mountain,' the huge figure of the demon looming in twilight behind Him, may be compared with 'Jesus ministered to by Angels,' where He sleeps, and the guardians' outstretched hands touch His garments. Both these works are striking examples of the power of the designer. The composition called 'Nathaniel under the Fig-Tree' is a good specimen of his treatment of Oriental landscape. Decidedly impressive is the figure of 'St. Bartholomew,' one of the best in a series of studies. Further parts will be published in the spring.

*Cinderella's Picture Book*, with the original coloured pictures and new additions by W. Crane (Lane), contains 'Cinderella,' 'Puss in Boots,' and 'Valentine and Orson' in Mr. Walter Crane's versions, as well as his excellent designs, the first group of which show what a pretty girl Cinderella really was, how graceful and natural, and likewise what a lovely fairy godmother looked after her. We do not care about 'Puss in Boots,' but at the cartoon which heads 'Valentine and Orson,' and shows how two most ferocious lions guarded the gate when the heroic friends approached that fortress of the Green Knight's castle, we cannot look too often. These pictures have been "engraved and printed" by Mr. E. Evans; but neither in colouring nor in delicacy do they equal the first issues of 'King Luckiboy' and 'The Fairy Ship.'

*Evangeline: a Tale of Acadie* (Gay & Bird), appears decorated with certain prettily coloured plates, the productions of the Misses V. Oakley and J. W. Smith. Apart from the pleasing coloration, which may be due to the printer, but is really commendable, these pictures are exactly such as two young ladies might be expected to produce.

#### NOTES FROM PARIS.

The small exhibitions which come before the two annual Salons are never of great importance. The societies of the Rue Volney and the Rue Boissy d'Anglas are chiefly composed of members of the Institute and artists who have made their name, and consequently feel little anxiety to exhibit audacious novelties to the people of the every-day world who form their company.

The show in the Rue Boissy d'Anglas looks like a portrait exhibition. Of this one need not complain, as there are first-rate things of the sort. M. Bonnat has found in Madame Rose Caron a model that suited his hand. The energetic figure of the great singer, the bones under her flesh, the stage dress as one of Reyer's heroines which she has chosen for the occasion, are set off powerfully. The charm of the intelligence of his sitter has been also seized by a painter whose mastery is especially felt in masculine portraits. Another noticeable likeness is that of M. G. Hanotaux. M. Benjamin-Constant has suppressed all the harmonies of colour which delight him, and set about only rendering the thought and character of the politician and the *savant*. The interest is concentrated on the animated and thoughtful head. The episcopal element bears sway in this *salon* with the portrait of the Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims by M. Fernand Cormon. The render-

ing is sober and powerful. The back of the picture, dull as an ecclesiastic's cell, is pitched in a drowsy key. M. Aimé Morot sends a portrait of *M. Depoyrin*, which holds its own in every respect. The drawing and colours are in keeping. A painter who always remains true to the manner of the old masters is M. Ferdinand Roybet. He has painted M. de Dramord with a brush full of go and Flemish effects of colour. M. Carolus Duran exhibits a taste for Venetian colours in the two pretty heads of children which he has brought together on one canvas.

Visitors to exhibitions in France as well as England are not strangers to portraits of women in which the artists aim chiefly at producing decorative pieces fitted to ornament a *salon*. The real or supposed beauty of the model, and the elegance of her attire, are brought into prominence. Among the works which come under this head may be mentioned the portrait of *Miss E. C.*, by M. J. Blanche, a young girl wearing a large hat and sitting in a park. The artist has studied the English painters of the great period with a taste of his own. M. Marcel Baschet is more on the lines of French tradition in his small portrait of a lady as finely handled as a miniature; it follows nature very closely, and fully renders the model. There is also a head of a young girl painted by a great sculptor, M. Antonin Mercié. The warm tones in which he has painted the flesh animate an image which, without this intelligent infusion of blood, might look like marble. M. Humbert has brought together on the same canvas two sisters, the *Demoiselles de B.*, aristocratic figures reserved in expression, and rendered with a powerful insight into breeding and atmosphere. The portrait of Madame Veuve Postma, by M. J. Lefebvre, concludes the series of interesting things of the sort.

M. Edouard Detaille, who takes as lively an interest in the soldiers of the past as in those of the present, contributes a clever piece of composition, entitled *Aux Avant-Postes, Italie, 1796*, in which he revives the men—ill clothed, but full of the fire of battle—who made the beginning of Napoleon's grand epic. In *genre painting* *La Marchande de Poissons*, by M. Dagnan-Bouveret, holds the first place. But it is a fishseller of a sort, it must be admitted, rarely seen even in Brittany, where imaginations still surrender themselves to the haunting power of a world of mystery. A young girl in green, whose small basket of fish lies by her side, seems lost in an unknown ecstasy. Her fixed eyes shine like a mirror, and recall that Lady of the Sea, Ibsen's heroine, who was fascinated involuntarily by a fish and rooted in that gaze for hours. This strange creation by an artist who usually shows such balance astonishes and fascinates the crowd. I cannot omit to mention the works of M. Cazin, who appears to paint always the same picture, yet knows how to call up once more the melancholy feelings suggested by roads and hamlets whose solitude and poverty form their only charm. M. Billotte, who puts so much poetry into his Parisian landscapes clouded in haze, comes on this occasion near the vision of M. Cazin in his picture of *Les Bords du Loing*, where humble sails are reflected in sleeping water.

Sculpture is brilliantly represented by men of reputation. M. Antonin Mercié has employed painted wax in his model of the head of an Eastern woman, overflowing with life and youth, entitled *Au Sérail*. A sense of refinement is conspicuous in the portrait of *Mlle. Rosita Mauri*, a bust in terra-cotta by M. Puech. M. Got, the retired *doyen* of the Comédie Française, has sat to M. Crauk, who shows great power of expression. A small statuette in bronze represents the *Duc d'Aumale* in all the vigour of mature age. M. Prosper d'Épinay, the sculptor, has portrayed the man of birth rather than the man of letters. The body is well set, the head fine and aristocratic.

The society of the Rue Volney has given its

visitors this year a real artistic surprise. It exhibits a reduced version of *L'Ensemble de la Décoration* which will ornament the Escalier des Fêtes at the Hôtel de Ville. In this fine piece the knowledge, the taste and charm of M. Olivier Merson support one another. The large figures are accompanied by decorative *motifs* of elegant design. The signs of the zodiac, interpreted in a new style and painted in monochrome, will be placed in the arches. This work is an instance of the possibilities of modern decoration when it is entrusted in its entirety to a master like M. Olivier Merson. It is, I may add, a reproach which the Municipal Council in some sense does not deserve to say that the Maison de Ville has been made "le capharnaüm de la peinture." M. Puvion de Chavannes has decorated the great staircase. There is no want of homogeneity in the work. Two charming lateral galleries have been ornamented in their entirety, one by M. Galland, the other by M. Picard.

The landscape painters naturally do not send great compositions, which would be difficult to place in these small *salons*, but their contributions exhibit the results of sincere observation. Notable in particular are *La Herse* of M. Bouchor and *L'Homme qui taille sa Haie* of M. Émile Barau; and though suffering somewhat from the fact of having such illustrious relations, M. Adrien Demont has succeeded for some years in assuming a place of his own making between M. Jules Breton, his father-in-law, and Madame Demont Breton, his wife. He puts his personal feelings into the landscapes he paints; solitary places inspire him, like M. Cazin, with a melancholy poetry. *Genre painting* is strongly represented in a great picture by M. Bouguereau, *A la Fontaine*; his drawing is, as usual, above criticism. No one on this occasion will accuse M. Jules Lefebvre of being too academic; he leaves his habitual reserve behind in a picture rich in colour, and gives us a fairy-like vision in his picture of *Jeanne la Rousse*. For M. Raphaël Collin the gay world has its sad side too. The young women he paints are intentionally kept in neutral and somewhat faded tones. This is the medium in which he represents an elegant and melancholy figure in his canvas *A la Fenêtre*.

M. Benjamin-Constant is beginning to take something like a dominant position in portrait-painting; his portrait of *M. Frédéric Ayer* is notable for the richness of its colouring, and that of *Madame A. Reichenbach* charms one by the way the beautiful shaded tones show up her dark beauty. The arrangement of the dress is exquisite; indeed, the artist is well known to be a valuable adviser in such matters. M. J. Weber, who sometimes exhibits strange pieces of laborious effect, has sent a clever portrait of *Coquelin Cadet*, painted with zest.

In sculpture M. Agathon Léonard—who has been at work for some years, but did not win recognition from the general public until he sent his remarkable works to the Champ de Mars last year—has exhibited a striking head of Christ, which he calls *Le Drame du Vendredi Saint*.

The Orientalists form a small, active society pledged to new ways. This society, a section of which took part in the exhibition of the Institute of Carthage, has founded a yearly prize to help a young artist residing in one of the countries of French Africa to paint figures or landscape from nature on the spot. At Paris, where it has opened its fifth exhibition, the society adds to the works of young members the paintings and drawings of a deceased artist who chose Oriental painting for his life work with success. This year the choice has fallen upon Léon Belly, born in 1827, whose name is only known to the present generation by his striking picture in the Louvre, 'La Caravane de Pélérins se rendant à la Mecque.' He seems to be the leader whom our young Orientalists have followed, for he brings to his analysis of light an infinite delicacy. His



*Études pour son Tableau de la Caravane* are pervaded by an ambient air; his *Mare de Gisch* is painted in drowsy half-tones, and vivified by the light which makes the ground rosy. His was no mere studio knowledge of Oriental things; he had travelled often in Syria, Palestine, Algeria, and Egypt. His widow has presented to the Louvre his 'Le Port du Vieux Caire,' in which he left desert scenes and Egyptian solitudes to show the banks of a river enlivened by a moving crowd of figures.

To make people live in their surroundings, to give by an exact record of physical life an idea of the character and habits of the East, is the task attempted by a number of artists. But the real successes of the present show are scored by MM. Dinet and Taupin. *Sur les Terrasses, Clair de Lune*, by M. Dinet, reveals a new sensation of beauty which no painter nor writer has yet drawn from the Oriental world. It is climate and race explaining themselves one by the other, not so much scientifically as by their intimate connexion of harmony and supreme beauty. M. Taupin, in a familiar subject, *Les Fumeurs de Haschich*, has noted with a rare precision and power of expression the voluptuous and besotted dream which separates the searchers after chimeras from real life. On the other hand, the small figures in marble, bronze, and ivory, adorned with necklets of clasps and girdles of metal, which M. Théodore Rivière shows, are in a style dear to amateurs, but show little insight into the East.

The Society of Miniaturists and Illuminators is made up for the most part of women and young girls. The problem of technique which the sight of these minute portraits suggests is this: How far are truth of expression and accurate modelling compatible with finish and delicacy of rendering? Madame Dibilemont Chardon will by her miniatures enlighten those who are interested in this question; a portrait of a child, dated 1897, is the result of her latest efforts. It shows that this attractive kind of art can, even at the present day, be used to make portraits which are likenesses and yet rank as pleasing knick-knacks.

The illuminators have contributed missals in good style. M. Lemaire has achieved happy results by combining on a fan a subtle study of foliage with fantastic animals and small people. It possesses a French sobriety. This quality is lacking completely in M. Atalaya, who has invented a method of illumination which goes to Byzantine icons for its inspiration. The text, written by hand, is accompanied by decorative motifs, the outline and relief of which are set off by natural stones, rubies, turquoises, and real pearls.

The École des Beaux-Arts has decided to honour the memory of the last survivor of the school of 1830 by opening its exhibition rooms to the paintings and drawings of the landscape artist Louis Français. It has decided also to support the idea of his admirers who had resolved to raise a monument to him at Plombières, his native place. The three hundred and more pictures in this exhibition are for the most part the property of amateurs, but a sale of its contents will take place in March at his studio on the Boulevard Montparnasse.

Born in 1814, Louis Français belongs rather by his age and his friendships to the great romantic school than by the kind of talent he possessed. All his life he was a close student, analyzing within small quiet limits the aspects of nature; he exhibited for the first time at the Salon of 1837, for the last at that of 1897. His first training was that of a draughtsman; he worked for the publisher Curmer and for the *Magasin Pittoresque*, with its brilliant circle of draughtsmen, Tony Johannot, Celestin, and Isobey, who illustrated the literary masterpieces of the day. He retained the habit he had contracted in his first occupation of drawing and composing landscapes. An Italian

villa, a little corner in the suburbs, makes with him a picture, not a study. The tufted foliage lacks air occasionally; it was only latterly he concerned himself about questions of atmosphere and open air. *L'Olivier du Plateau d'Antibes* is a little masterpiece in the way of painting as understood to-day. It is dated 1894. Certainly Louis Français was a hard worker, and his memory deserves to be honoured.

MARIE BENGESCO.

#### SALES.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS sold on the 15th and 16th inst. the following engravings. After Sir J. Reynolds, *The Affectionate Brothers*, and Lord Grantham and Hon. F. and P. Robinson, by Bartolozzi and Cheesman, a pair, 55*l.*; Hon. Miss Bingham, by Bartolozzi, 31*l.*; Mrs. Abington as the Comic Muse, by T. Watson, 58*l.*; Lady Beaumont, by J. R. Smith, 27*l.*; Mrs. Hardinge, by T. Watson, second state, 27*l.*; The Duchess of Leinster, by W. Dickinson, the title in Horace Walpole's writing, 135*l.*; Guardian Angels, by C. H. Hodges, 31*l.*. After Opie, *Almeria*, by J. R. Smith, 55*l.*. After A. Buck, *The Darling Dancing*, and *Mamma at Romps*, by S. Freeman, 27*l.*; *My Little Shock*, and *What's that, Mother?* by Agar and Black, 32*l.*. After R. Cosway, *Mrs. Tickell*, by J. Condé, 60*l.*; *Mrs. Jackson*, by J. Condé, 40*l.*; *Miss Cosway*, by A. Cardon, 34*l.*. Macklin's *Poets' Gallery*: *Hobbinol and Ganderetta*, after Gainsborough, by P. W. Tomkins, 33*l.*; *The Cottagers*, after Reynolds, by Bartolozzi, 42*l.*. After Romney, *A Bacchante (Lady Hamilton)*, by C. Knight, second state, 86*l.*. After Sir T. Lawrence, *Miss Farren*, by F. Bartolozzi, 100*l.*. After Hamilton, *Children Snowballing*, and *Children Bathing*, 32*l.*. After P. W. Tomkins, *Children with Bird*, and *Children with Dog*, by himself, a pair, 28*l.*. After Huet Villiers, *Mrs. Q.*, by W. Blake, 45*l.*. After F. Wheatley, *Primroses*, by Schiavonetti, 29*l.*; *The Cottage Door*, and *The School Door*, by G. Keating, 33*l.*; *The Dairy*, and *The Cottage Fireside*, by W. Ward, 45*l.*. After J. Ward, *The Compassionate Children*, by W. Ward, 45*l.*. After J. R. Smith, *Les Deux Amis*, by himself, 31*l.*. After G. Morland, *The Miseries of Idleness*, and *Comforts of Industry*, by H. Hudson, 26*l.*; *Industry and Idleness (Mrs. Morland)*, by C. Knight, a pair, 69*l.*; *Morning*, or the *Higgles preparing for Market*, and *Evening*, or the *Postboy's Return*, by D. Orme, 40*l.*; *Louisa*, by T. Gauguin, a pair, 47*l.*; *Feeding the Pigs*, by J. R. Smith, 25*l.*; *Sporting Series—Coursing*, *Woodcock and Pheasant Shooting*, and *Duck Shooting (two)*, a set of four, 63*l.*; *The Farmer's Stable*, by W. Ward, 27*l.*. *Cries of London*, after F. Wheatley, a set of eight, 125*l.*.

The same auctioneers sold on the 19th inst. the following. Pictures: W. Owen, *A Young Girl*, in yellow dress and straw hat, 357*l.*. P. Prud'hon, *A Nymph*, with red robe, 252*l.*. T. Creswick, *A Welsh River*, with cattle and an angler, 105*l.*. S. Alken, jun., *Racing Subjects*, a set of eight drawings, 99*l.*. Ranter and Arthur, two greyhounds, engraved after Marshall, 36*l.*.

#### Fine-Art Gossip.

We have authority for stating that there is no ground for the reports, circulated in this country as well as on the Continent, that Messrs. Armstead, Sant, Yeames, and Wells intend, or have intended, to resign their present positions in the Royal Academy.

THE Dean and Chapter of Westminster have appointed Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite to the post of architect to the Abbey buildings, vacant by the death of Mr. J. L. Pearson.

IN the gallery of the Fine-Art Society may be seen nearly a hundred and thirty charming productions of Miss K. Greenaway. Never departing from the lines of design and technique

by which she, years ago, delighted every art-loving capital, she still gives us the likenesses of "a garden of girls" not less fresh, animated, and thoroughly English than their not less lively and unsophisticated mothers of more than twenty years ago. The new generation of this idyllic race blooms afresh in the whole of the later portraits; their faces and figures live again without a blemish, and are as light, as brilliant and pure in tone and colour, their movements as frank and graceful, as of yore, and their innocence so bewitching that we are confident that not even a third generation of them would fail to attract. It is a wonder that, working within limits so narrow as she observes, the artist should succeed so well. That she does so will be felt by all who look at the pretty 'Girl in a Pink Frock' (14), or any of the drawings illustrating the months in the 'Almanack for 1897,' especially 'November' (20), 'October' (34), 'Frontispiece' (49), and 'December' (110). 'Girl in Pink and Black, Grey Muff' (36), is one of Miss Greenaway's masterpieces, while the little maiden, half saucy and defiant (59), who turns back to look at an admirer with 'Well?' is delightful. 'Gleaners going Home' (67) demands much praise; nor is 'A Big Girl and a Little Girl' (86) less telling, while it is safe to say that 'Three Girls Dancing' (88), a monochrome study on brown paper, is worthy of Tanagra. Matrons and maidens alike will fall in love with 'Baby Boy in a Blue Coat and Tippet' (105). 'Girl with a Basket of Flowers' (120) is a crowning piece.

THE 'Calendar, History, and General Summary of Regulations of the Department of Science and Art, 1898,' a closely printed Blue-book in octavo and of nearly three hundred pages, has been published. The permanent value of this document—its "regulations" being as transient as the numerous "codes" of various other governmental and educational departments—exists in the history with which it begins. The mass of the volume is largely made up of details concerning the working of the art mill which is kept ever going at the cost of the nation, as well as of accounts of the methods of science teaching now adopted at South Kensington and its dependencies. Some of the details are surprising. Thus it is stated that the municipal art schools in Birmingham boast of not fewer than 5,700 pupils, and quite a battalion of teachers. The pupils in science are far from being so numerous. Her Majesty's Stationery Office issues this volume.

AT Paris, behind the church of Notre-Dame, excavations made for the construction of a private house have brought to light extensive remains of the ancient wall of the city. They were found at a depth of about five mètres below the actual level of the ground, running on a line of sixty mètres between the Quai aux Fleurs, the Rue Chanoinesse, and the Cloître-Notre-Dame, in face of the Ile Saint-Louis. The wall was a strong construction, three mètres thick, the material of which consists of large stones taken from older Roman buildings. Several blocks, cut in the shape of steps, and covered with inscriptions, are supposed to come—like the pieces found some years ago on the Parvis de Notre-Dame—from the ancient amphitheatre known by the name of Arènes of the Rue Monge. The inscriptions contain names of citizens of the ancient Lutetia for whom these seats were reserved. A commission appointed by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in order to examine the discovery has proposed to select the best preserved for the Musée Carnavalet.

IT is reported that the Salon and the younger art society which has hitherto been housed in the Champ de Mars propose to open their exhibitions to the public simultaneously in the Galerie des Machines on the 1st of May next, as the elder body invariably did in the Champs

Elysées. The societies intend to hang their pictures in parallel galleries on the Champ de Mars, and their sculptures will occupy the ground floor of the same building. Both the shows will be closed on the 30th of June. All these circumstances are departures from previous usage. Pictures and engravings intended for either must be delivered in Paris between the 24th and 26th prox., sculptures from the 29th to the 31st prox., and architectural works and *objets d'art* between the 4th and the 6th of April.

The annual meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute will be held at Lancaster from Tuesday, July 19th, to Tuesday, July 26th.

The Brotherhood Publishing Company are now circulating, under the title 'What is Art?' a translation of a work by Count Tolstoy, but Mr. Stanley Little points out to us that he used the title for a book on art published by Mr. Sonnenschein, of which he has had in preparation for some time past a second edition.

AN industrious art critic, Theodor Seemann, born in the year 1837 at Göttingen, has recently died at Dresden. Among his numerous books may be mentioned his 'Geschichte der bildenden Künste,' published in 1879, and his 'Lehrbuch der vervielfältigenden Künste,' issued four years ago.

THE *Times* announces the death at Munich on the 19th inst. of Prof. von Liezen-Mayer. Born at Raab in 1839 and a pupil of Piloty, he painted various portraits and subject pictures, illustrated many books, and became a member of the Vienna Academy and Director of the Art School at Stuttgart. Though described as famous, he was quite unknown in this country. No picture of his has been exhibited in England.

At Athens M. Kavvadias has resumed his excavations outside of the Acropolis, on the northern slopes of the hill.

## MUSIC

### THE WEEK.

QUEEN'S HALL.—Symphony Concerts.  
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Popular Concerts.  
QUEEN'S SMALL HALL.—Walenn Chamber Concerts.

NOTWITHSTANDING the boasted love of English amateurs for choral music, neither of the important sacred works produced at Hereford and Birmingham respectively last autumn had been heard in London until a week ago, when Dr. Hubert Parry's Latin 'Magnificat' was brought to a hearing at the Queen's Hall. This fresh and masterly work was first performed at Hereford on September 15th last year (*Athen.* No. 3648), and was unanimously pronounced to be a worthy addition to the list of the choral compositions, including the 'De Profundis,' 'Job,' and 'King Saul,' with which Dr. Parry has earned the gratitude of all who love sacred music in its highest form. The bluff, hearty English style that has characterized the ripest utterances of the composer, the extraordinary facility which he evinces in dealing with self-imposed contrapuntal problems, and, above all, the easy flow of melody, when melody undiluted seems desirable, stamp Dr. Parry as a musician of rare gifts and attainments. Though the movement is, for the most part, very brisk and animated, the choral writing is so clear—that is to say free from unnecessary abstruseness—that if the 'Magnificat' might have benefited by, at any rate, one more rehearsal, the choir on Saturday fulfilled its duties on the whole extremely well, and Madame Medora Henson struggled hard with the principal soprano part, though

manifestly out of voice. Not much can be said in favour of an orchestral fantasia with the title 'Une Nuit sur le Mont chauve,' by a Russian composer named Moussorgsky, who died in poverty at St. Petersburg in 1881 at the age of forty-one. Destined for the army, he forsook it for music, only to meet with disappointment, indigence and intemperance accelerating his premature end. The fantasia played last Saturday is yet another attempt to suggest demoniac revels by night, this time upon some Russian equivalent for the Brocken. Left in an incomplete state by Moussorgsky, it was finished and orchestrated by Rimsky-Korsakoff, whose time might have been better employed, for 'Une Nuit sur le Mont chauve' is rather below than above pieces of its class in musicianly qualities and general effectiveness. Mr. Henry Wood's fine orchestra was heard to far better advantage in Mozart's Symphony in G minor and in two of Wagner's most fiery pieces, the Overture to 'Der Fliegende Holländer' and the 'Walkürenritt.'

There seems to be a growing opinion that if the Popular Concerts are to maintain the position they occupied for so many years means must be taken towards strengthening the programmes, for the Monday audiences have for some considerable time betrayed a downward tendency in numbers, and to judge from last Saturday the afternoon performances are no longer free from the adverse influence, the attendance being unsatisfactory, though it was Lady Halle's last appearance as principal violinist. Great artist as she is, she was hardly wise in choosing for her parting solo Handel's Sonata in D, of which frequenters of these concerts must be weary, in preference to any other of the companion examples from the same set of twelve published in 1732. Again, the pianist, Herr Zeldenrust, was permitted to choose as a pianoforte solo a transcription of Bach's great Organ Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, instead of a work originally written for the pianoforte. Beethoven's Quartet in E flat, Op. 74, and Chopin's Introduction and Polonaise in C, Op. 3, completed the instrumental portion of the scheme, and a new-comer, Mlle. Maud Roudès, won some favour as the vocalist.

The annual reappearance of Herr Joachim is not at present regarded as an event of such importance as it was in former years, and there were many empty seats in St. James's Hall on Monday evening. Still the great violinist had a more than usually cordial reception, and quickly gave proof that his powers have in no way declined. One of Beethoven's Rasoumowski Quartets, as usual, was placed at the head of the programme, the choice falling on the example in E minor, No. 2, which, as regards the first violin part, has never been more magnificently interpreted, though it must be confessed that at times the *ensemble* was ill balanced. Herr Joachim could not have made a better choice for his solo than two movements from Bach's unaccompanied Sonata in C major. The final *allegro assai* from this, in the manner of a *moto perpetuo*, he has frequently played, but never with greater vigour or sureness of execution than on Monday. Some interest in the concert attached to the first appearance of Mlle. Alice Dessauer, a young pianist, formerly pupil of Madame Schu-

mann. She elected to be first judged as an exponent of Chopin, choosing the rarely heard Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 1, and the Scherzo in B minor, so frequently played that it might be accorded a rest. Apparently Mlle. Dessauer was perfectly at ease before the key-board, her execution being irreproachably accurate and her touch pure and sympathetic. She was even more commendable in Schumann's familiar 'Nachtstück' in F, Op. 23, No. 4, and before the end of the season we shall hope to hear her in one or more important works by the last-named master. The list of instrumental items in the scheme included Haydn's favourite Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2. The vocalist was Mrs. Hutchinson, who merits praise for avoidance of hackneyed songs. Her first selection was a bright air, 'Lass' uns, o höchster Gott,' from a new year's cantata by Bach, and her next Massenet's 'Crépuscule.' A quaint and pleasing old song, 'Self-Banished,' by John Blow, arranged by Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland, pleased greatly. A contemporary of Purcell, Blow was to some extent eclipsed by the greater musician; but in spite of technical faults, which subjected him to much adverse criticism from Burney and others, his church music holds its own even to the present day in our cathedrals, as it is marked by a degree of unconventionality not common in the compositions of the time.

At the first of the Walenn Chamber Concerts for the present season, on Tuesday evening, a remarkable 'Trio Élégiac' in D minor, Op. 9, by Sergei Wasseliwitsch Rachmaninoff, formed the principal feature of the programme. The modern Slavonic school of composition is steadily gaining ascendancy, and Rachmaninoff is a composer from whom much may be expected, as he is only twenty-five years of age. He studied under eminent masters at the Moscow Conservatoire, and took honours at an unusually early age. He has already written much, chiefly for the pianoforte, and the trio played on Tuesday was penned four years ago, after the death of Tschaiakowsky, the inscription "A la mémoire d'un grand artiste" being understood to refer to the deceased master. Though ostensibly in only three movements, the work is planned on a very large scale, and is remarkable for a profusion of thematic material, especially in the middle division, an *andante* (*quasi variazione*), which, strangely enough, begins and ends with a solemn passage for harmonium. Much use is made of recurring figures, especially of the chromatic descending phrase with which the trio opens. Wild, passionate grief is the predominant feeling, but there are a few consolatory strains, notably the second subject of the first movement. Occasionally the composer rises to an exciting climax, the end, however, being as suggestive of unmitigated gloom as that of Tschaiakowsky's 'Pathetic' Symphony. Despite irregularities in construction and other signs of immaturity, the 'Elegiac' Trio shows great promise. Its length is somewhat against it, and the pruning knife might be used without any loss of effect. The performance by Messrs. Gerald and Herbert Walenn and Mr. Herbert Parsons, with Mr. Fountain Meen at the



harmonium, was admirable, considering the difficulties of the music, which lie chiefly in the pianoforte part. Of the rest of the programme, consisting mainly of vocal and instrumental solos, nothing need be said.

### Musical Gossip.

In consequence of the extraordinary demand for places, arrangements have now been completed for an extra cycle of 'Der Ring des Nibelungen' at Covent Garden, the dates fixed being June 14th, 17th, 21st, and 24th. Mr. Schulz-Curtius desires it to be understood that this is an "overflow" cycle in the strictest sense of the term, the applications being so numerous that all the seats are already allotted. No further inquiries can, therefore, be entertained.

HERR LIEBLING'S Schumann pianoforte recital in St. James's Hall on Thursday afternoon last week was even more fatiguing, alike to performer and audience, than that of Beethoven a few days previously. The over-ambitious executant essayed the Sonatas in F sharp minor, Op. 11, and G minor, Op. 22; the eight 'Fantasietücke,' Op. 12; the 'Carnaval,' Op. 9; and the Fantasia in C, Op. 17. Nothing whatever was shown by Herr Liebling to justify such a prodigious programme at one sitting. As before, textual inaccuracies were few, but of insight into the poetical significance of the truly inspired music there was little indeed.

The concert of the Victoria Madrigal Society in St. Martin's Town Hall on Thursday evening last week was in a sense disappointing. The modern part-songs by various composers were rendered with precision and good tone, but there was not one item in the programme that could be regarded as representative of the true school of madrigal composition, in which at one time this country excelled. Dr. G. Stanley Murray, the conductor of the new society, should see to this, for he has material at his disposal which might be turned to better artistic purpose than it is at present.

M. LOUIS H. HILLIER, whose fourth annual concert took place at St. James's Hall on Friday afternoon last week, is the leader of the Belgian String Quartet, consisting of himself and MM. Jean Pirson, Jules de Villez, and Adolphe Schmid. A fair performance was given of Beethoven's early Quartet in G, Op. 18, No. 2, making allowance for somewhat thin tone. The rest of the concert was miscellaneous, consisting largely of M. Hillier's songs and minor instrumental pieces, all unobtrusively written and well within the means of musical amateurs. Mlle. Eva Cortesi (a powerful dramatic soprano with an extensive compass), Mr. Clyde Twelvrees (a refined violoncellist), and Mr. Hugo Heinz took effective part in the programme.

MR. CECIL GEORGE, who gave his first vocal recital at the Queen's Small Hall on Monday afternoon, has a pleasant and well-trained light baritone voice, which he displayed to greater advantage in songs by Raff, Rubinstein, and Legrenzi than in the more trying air "O God, have mercy," from Mendelssohn's 'St. Paul.' Agreeable assistance in the concert was afforded by Miss Maude Danks, Miss Lilian Stuart, Mr. Clyde Twelvrees, and Messrs. Ross and Moore.

The pianoforte recital given by Mr. Mark Hambourg on Tuesday afternoon in St. James's Hall afforded proof at any rate that the youthful executant is still progressing in command over the key-board. His manipulation in such selections as the last movement of Beethoven's Sonata in F minor, Op. 57, Chopin's Scherzo in B minor, and two of the Etudes from the second set was brilliant and powerful. It seems vain to continue raising protests against the transcriptions of Bach's organ works, without which no pianist apparently considers a recital programme complete; but we still hope that a more artistic feeling will ultimately prevail.

THERE WAS no diminution in the number of sacred concerts on Ash Wednesday. In the afternoon Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' and Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang' were performed by the Queen's Hall Choral Society, and in the evening Gounod's 'Redemption' by the Royal Choral Society in the Albert Hall. Miscellaneous concerts of sacred music took place at St. James's Hall in the afternoon, the Queen's Hall in the evening, and in various other parts of the metropolis. These performances, which, of course, do not call for trenchant criticism, seem, as a rule, to have been very well attended.

THE sectional rehearsals of the choir engaged for the Leeds Festival next October have just commenced, and the initial impressions created at Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, and other Yorkshire centres, including, of course, Leeds itself, seem to have been on the whole highly satisfactory. The total strength of the chorus is at present 359, or nine more than are actually wanted. Some regret has been expressed that only half the vocalists who took part in the last festival are re-engaged, the natural falling off being only one-third. The Leeds contingent meets again this evening, when the preparation of Bach's Mass in B minor will be commenced.

HERR MAX BRUCH is said to be engaged on a new oratorio, to be called 'Gustav Adolph.' It is intended to be performed for the first time next winter by the Männerchor of Barmen.

### PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| SUN.   | Orchestral Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.                                |
| —      | National Sunday League Concert, 7, Queen's Hall.                    |
| MON.   | Royal Academy of Music Students' Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.      |
| —      | Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.                               |
| TUES.  | Mr. J. A. Collings' Concert, 8, St. Martin's Town Hall.             |
| —      | Robinson String Quartet Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.               |
| —      | Highbury Philharmonic Society, 'The Messiah,' 8, Highbury Athenæum. |
| WED.   | Ballad Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.                                |
| —      | M. Lamoureux's Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.                            |
| —      | Royal College of Music Concert, 7.45.                               |
| THURS. | Herr Liebling's Pianoforte Recital, 3, St. James's Hall.            |
| FRI.   | Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.                               |
| SAT.   | Symphony Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.                                  |
| —      | Orchestral Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.                            |
| —      | M. Ernest de Munk's Violoncello Pupils' Recital, 3, Steinway Hall.  |

### DRAMA

#### THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S.—'Much Ado about Nothing.'

IF the revival of 'Much Ado about Nothing' is less interesting and significant than that of 'As You Like It,' by which it was preceded at the St. James's, the cause is to be found in the fact that the principal parts are less happily cast. The views of Messina, its harbour and the adjacent gulf, are admirable, and the costumes realize all that documents have told us concerning Renaissance splendour. Add to this that the joy of living which animated the aristocratic life of the early part of the sixteenth century is preserved, and it will be seen that the revival has, from the pictorial standpoint, strong claims upon attention. No point is more difficult for us to present, with our own propensity to "look before and after" and the studious banishment from our lives of most forms of demonstrativeness, than the lightheartedness of those who with, in Ibsen phrase, the "vine leaves in their hair," dance with the thoughtlessness of children on the slopes of a volcano and in the throes of an earthquake. The difficulty is, however, conquered, and the picture of revelry in the court at Messina and of amorous ambuscades in the pleached bowers errs only, most pardonably, in extravagance of luxury and splendour. Everything, in fact, that art and taste can contribute to the augmentation of delight is furnished, and the masks and dances introduced evince a vivacity and an animation

supposed, not without reason, to be unknown in this country, "Merry England" though it be or have been. While, however, the framework of the play is ideal, the performance is too modern, for the poetry of the play is subordinated to its drollery. It is superfluous to maintain, in this as in other comedies of Shakspeare, that the tenderness and the poetry overmaster the wit, brilliant as this is. In this respect 'Much Ado about Nothing' resembles 'As You Like It,' in which, however brilliant the retort, the informing spirit is always tender and plaintive. It should chiefly be borne in mind that the phrases of delicious banter which constantly occur stand in no need of accentuation, from which, indeed, they lose rather than gain. Magnificent as are in personal appearance the Benedick of Mr. Alexander and the Beatrice of Miss Julia Neilson, neither answers fully to Shakspeare's conception. The plaintive humour and indulgent tenderness of Mr. Alexander, which stood him in good stead as Orlando, are of small avail in Benedick, and the assumption of vivacity poorly replaces them. Mr. Alexander's best gift, and it is a most desirable possession, is the power always to suggest more than is shown or told. In his Benedick he expands and gives us all, and more than all, and the result is at least inferior. In like fashion Miss Neilson's Beatrice has unsurpassable brightness, beauty, and animal spirits, but wants the indefinable something behind it which we have found in actresses not otherwise her superiors. Miss Fay Davis is an attractive Hero, but fails to endow the part with a full measure of pathos. No one of the artists named is seen at the best. In other characters no similar fault has to be found. Mr. F. Terry has never been more effective than in Don Pedro; the Claudio of Mr. Loraine, the Leonato of Mr. Vernon, the Don John of Mr. H. B. Irving are also excellent. The representation exercised a great fascination over the public. The dances and the music (the latter by Mr. Edward German) were specially acceptable features.

### Dramatic Gossip.

SIR HENRY IRVING revived on Thursday of last week 'The Merchant of Venice,' reappearing in Shylock. The character seems now more elaborately embroidered, but is not otherwise changed. On Saturday afternoon he was seen as Corporal Gregory Brewster in 'A Story of Waterloo' and Mathias in 'The Bells.' In 'The Merchant of Venice' Miss Terry repeated her performance of Portia, one of her finest impersonations.

THE destruction by fire of the Lyceum scenic properties will elicit for the management a general expression of sympathy. Apart from the fact that a serious financial loss, very imperfectly covered by insurance, has been incurred, there is the more embarrassing difficulty that none of the more important pieces in the Lyceum repertory, except such as are now held in immediate readiness, can be revived without the provision of fresh scenery. We are in ignorance of the cause of the fire, but there seems little chance of resisting the conclusion that it must be due either to malice or grievous carelessness.

UPON reopening the Novelty Theatre, a house with perhaps the unhappiest record of any theatre claiming to rank as a West-End house, Mr. Penley will change once more into the Crown its often-changed title. We may then, perhaps,

learn "what's in a name." The piece with which it will reopen is 'The Ray of Sunshine,' by Messrs Heriot and Ambient.

The next novelty at the Criterion, when the run of 'The Liars' is over, will be 'The Tyranny of Tears,' by Mr. C. Haddon Chambers, which it is anticipated will see out Mr. Wyndham's tenancy of the theatre.

MR. TERRY reappears this evening at his own theatre in 'The White Knight,' supported by Miss Kate Rorke and Miss Esmé Beringer.

MR. CHARLES WYNDHAM and Mr. John Hare, both of whom have been temporarily incapacitated by illness, have resumed their respective parts in 'The Liars' and 'A Bachelor's Romance.'

THE AVENUE Theatre, from which 'Sweet Nancy' has been withdrawn, closed its doors last Saturday. No announcement of immediate reopening has been made.

THE next novelty at the Comedy will be 'The Sea Flower,' by Mr. Arthur Law.

As the first house on what used to be considered the great Northern road the Grand Theatre at Islington is perhaps a fitting starting-point for companies going on tour. As such, at least, it is now often used. During next week the Drury Lane drama of 'The White Heather' will begin there its country journey, Mrs. Florence Wood replacing her mother, Mrs. John Wood, and Miss Violet Armbruster Miss Beatrice Lamb.

THE life of W. G. Wills the dramatist, by his brother, the Rev. Freeman Wills, is announced by Messrs. Longman to be in the press.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—R. J. C.—P. S.—F. W.—H. R. B.—H. P. F. M.—E. & S.—received.

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